



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 26, 2017

DATE: August 23, 2017
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Dr. Laura D. Knight, Chief Medical Examiner & Coroner
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Mark Mathers, Budget Manager
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THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager
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SUBJECT: Acknowledge publication of notice of intent to augment budgets and approve resolution to augment the General Fund in the amount of [\$71,550] to appropriate revenue generated by the Regional Medical Examiner’s Office from previously unbudgeted sources; and approve agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Donor Network for use of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office facility for postmortem tissue donation for a period of up to three years, with revenues totaling [\$314,949], effective September 26, 2017; and authorize the Human Resources Department to create a full time Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technologist position pending approval of the Job Evaluation Committee; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments (zero net impact to General Fund). (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Regional Medical Examiner’s Office requests that the Board acknowledge the publication of notice of intent to augment budgets and approve the resolution to augment the General Fund in the amount of \$71,550 to appropriate revenue generated from previously unbudgeted sources; and approve the agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Donor Network for a donor referral program and use of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office facility for post mortem tissue donation for a period of up to three years, with revenue totaling \$314,949, effective September 26, 2017; and that the Board authorize the Human Resources Department to create a full time Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technologist position pending approval of the Job

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Evaluation Committee; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget amendments.

Washoe County Strategic Objectives supported by this item:

Safe, secure and healthy communities
Regional and community leadership
Proactive economic development and diversification

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action taken on this item.

BACKGROUND

In January 2017, the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner's Office (WCRMEO) moved into a new, state of the art facility. This facility was specifically designed with a room to be used for postmortem tissue procurement. Postmortem tissue donation benefits the living. Skin, corneas, heart valves, bones, tendons, and other tissues can be procured within the first 24 hours after death. A single donor's tissues can potentially help dozens of people, including those suffering from life-threatening burns, torn ligaments, blindness, and valvular heart disease. During a presentation to the Board by the Chief Medical Examiner on August 8, 2017, several Board members expressed their support for increasing organ and tissue donation in Washoe County. Furthermore, an enhanced relationship with organ and tissue donation is one of the WCRMEO's strategic goals for Fiscal Year 2018. The WCRMEO is launching a program to refer all eligible Medical Examiner cases to the Nevada Donor Network as potential donors. NDN will obtain the consent of the next-of-kin and all other necessary information.

After several months of planning and policy development, an agreement is proposed between Washoe County and the Nevada Donor Network (NDN) to allow NDN staff to use the tissue procurement room at the WCRMEO to procure tissue from eligible decedents for transplantation. In exchange for use of the WCRMEO tissue procurement room, NDN will pay a monthly fee to Washoe County to be deposited in Washoe County's General Fund and to be used by the Regional Medical Examiner's Office for additional staffing, equipment purchases, training, or any other uses determined by the Chief Medical Examiner. It is the intent of the Chief Medical Examiner to utilize the first year revenue to fund an additional Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technologist position to absorb additional daily workload created by the in-house tissue donation program, among other duties, and the remainder to increase the travel budget which is necessary for Medical Examiner professional staff to attend training required for board certification.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the Fiscal Year 2018 augmentation will result in an increase in appropriations for the General Fund of \$71,550, which will be appropriated in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
IN60486	460342 –Tissue Agreement Revenue	\$71,550
IN60486	701110 – Base Salaries	\$42,660
IN60486	705360 – Benefit Adjustment	\$19,890
IN60486	711210 – Travel	\$9,000

The annual/monthly compensation schedule in the attached agreement is based on calendar year. The Regional Medical Examiner’s Office anticipates revenues generated by this agreement to be: Fiscal Year 2018/\$71,550 (three months in 2017 and six months in 2018), Fiscal Year 2019/\$102,516 (six months in 2018 and six months in 2019), Fiscal Year 2020/\$111,744 (six months in 2019 and six months in 2020), and Fiscal Year 2021/\$29,139 (three months in 2020). Future fiscal year appropriations will be incorporated during the applicable fiscal year budget process. Should funding not be available, any positions funded by the revenue will be abolished.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners acknowledge publication of the notice of intent to augment budgets and approve the resolution to augment the General Fund in the amount of \$71,550 to appropriate revenue generated by the Regional Medical Examiner’s Office from previously unbudgeted sources; and approve agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Donor Network for use of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office facility for postmortem tissue donation for a period of up to three years, with revenues totaling \$314,949, effective September 26, 2017; and authorize the Human Resources Department to create a full time Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technologist position pending approval of the Job Evaluation Committee; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments (zero net impact to General Fund).

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to acknowledge publication of notice of intent to augment budgets and approve resolution to augment the General Fund in the amount of \$71,550 to appropriate revenue generated by the Regional Medical Examiner’s Office from previously unbudgeted sources; and approve agreement between Washoe County and Nevada Donor Network for use of the Washoe County Regional Medical Examiner’s Office facility for postmortem tissue donation for a period of up to three years, with revenues totaling \$314,949, effective September 26, 2017; and authorize the Human Resources Department to create a full time Medicolegal Death Investigator/Technologist position pending approval of the Job Evaluation Committee; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the appropriate budget amendments (zero net impact to General Fund).”