



Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences Office of the Medical Examiner and Criminal Investigation Laboratory

FY 2025 Budget Requests

ARPA and Critical Position Requests

ARPA Position Title	Salary Grade	Quantity	Cost
Medical Examiner	F1	2	\$708,566
Medicolegal Death Investigator	15	3	\$277,317
Toxicology Chemist II	GM	2	\$206,224
Legal Secretary	8	1	\$69,191
Delete Pathologist, Pos. No. 0276	B1	(1)	(\$185,405)
Total		7	\$1,075,893
Other Critical Positions	Salary Grade	Quantity	Cost
Forensic Technical Manager (Forensic Biology)	KM	1	\$143,058
Forensic Biologist IV	JM	1	\$134,488
Delete Forensic Biologist I, Pos. Nos. 0310, 0313, 0321	EM	3	(\$294,495)
New mandate: SB 991 (TXR88): (2) Paralegals, scanners, IT staff support/software development	15	2	\$197,554+
Total (does not include new mandate):		(1)	(\$16,949)



Metrics & Performance Data

Medical Examiners

- 2023 autopsy caseload increased 22% from 2019 (approximately 1,000 additional cases)
- Per Medical Examiner caseload has exceeded NAME maximum since 2020
 - Actual 2023 average autopsies per Medical Examiner = 335 (NAME maximum = 325)
 - 2023 average autopsies **counting ARPA positions** = 302

Medicolegal Death Investigators

- 2023 death investigations increased by 1,762 (13%) compared to 2019
- 2023 per death investigator caseload of 783, **including (3) ARPA positions – without, 921**
- For comparison, Harris County per death investigator 2022 caseload of **408**

Toxicology Chemist II

- 2023 analyses increased 22% from 2019 (12,214 additional analyses)
- 2023 analyses 4,685 per chemist; **without (2) ARPA positions, 5,466** (17% workload increase)

Legal Secretary

- In 2023, 5,213 PIA requests and 176 subpoenas
- Without position, anticipate difficulty complying with statutory and other legal deadlines



Critical Capital Requests

- Mortuary racking system for morgue cooler (additional unit) – est. \$100,000
- Shell space finish-out (2nd floor Crime Lab building)
- Probabilistic genotyping software and equipment - \$106,000
- Nitrogen generators - \$111,000
- LC-MS/MS (Toxicology) - \$430,000
- SEM/EDS - \$401,000
- Replacement equipment including laboratory-grade refrigerators and freezers

