

**LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACT STATEMENT
PROPOSED COUNTY ORDINANCE**

NAME OF ORDINANCE: Amendment to Ordinance No. 15-07, Cremation District 21 Medical Examiner

A. Statement of Purpose

Amending Lee County Cremation Fee Ordinance No. 15-07, increasing the fee from \$50 to \$60; and adopt a Resolution amending Lee County Administrative Code AC-3-10, the External Fees and Charges Manual, in order to update Section EX 17-0 Medical Examiner.

B. Narrative Summary of Ordinance (Several Sentence Summary)

Section 406.11(1)(c), Florida Statutes, requires the District 21 Medical Examiner to determine the cause of death by such examinations, investigations, and autopsies as deemed necessary, when a body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea. Fees imposed for approval to cremate will be used to offset expenses of the Medical Examiner and Lee County.

This item increases the cremation fee imposed on all funeral homes from \$50 to \$60 per Medical Examiner authorization for the cremation. The last time the fee was increased was April 2015. The Medical Examiner is requesting the increase to help defray costs of providing the cremation authorizations, including staff time of physicians and forensic investigators, and storage of records in accordance with state regulations. This increase will reduce the general subsidy for the authorizations as a cremation authorization, on average, is estimated to cost between \$163 and \$175.

C. Principal Division(s) or Department(s) Affected (List)

District 21 Medical Examiner Budget
Services

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**II. Fiscal Impact on County Agencies/County Funds
(This section to be completed by Division of Budget Services)**

A. What is estimated Demand? N/A
(Develop Indicators)

B. What is estimated Workload? N/A
(Develop Indicators)

C. What are the estimated costs:

	1ST YEAR \$'s	2ND YEAR \$'s
	<u>Existing</u> <u>New</u>	<u>Existing</u> <u>New</u>
PERSONNEL		
FRINGE		
OPERATING		
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
TOTAL	N/A	N/A

D. List the anticipated revenues to cover costs identified in II.C. above. If a fee is to be charged, answer the following:

1. What is the basis (rationale) for the fee? Offset Medical Examiner expenses
2. Do the anticipated fees cover the full cost of operation? If not, what percentage of the costs are covered? N/A

D. Give a brief narrative analysis of the information contained in II.A. through D. above.

The county charges a fee for each cremation authorization issued by the Medical Examiner. The fee helps offset Medical Examiner expenses. Per contract, 30% of the fees collected go to the Medical Examiner. In FY20-21, there were 7,835 cremation authorizations resulting in proceeds to the General Fund of \$274,225.

$$(7,835 * \$50 = \$391,750 \text{ less } 30\% \text{ or } \$117,525 \text{ to ME} = \$274,225)$$

If the fee is increased to \$60 the annual proceeds to the General Fund (assuming same number of cremation authorizations) are \$329,070.

$$(7,835 * \$60 = \$470,100 \text{ less } 30\% \text{ or } \$141,030 \text{ to ME} = \$329,070)$$