



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** September 26, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Medical Examiner Services

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

*Move approval of County Administrator and District Attorney signatures on 2022-781, a contract for Medical Examiner services.*

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The County's Medical Examiner manages investigations of deaths for the purposes of determining cause and manner of death and producing death certificates in accordance with ORS 146 and in line with the recommendations and requirements of the State Medical Examiner's Office. This includes deaths due to injuries, those occurring under suspicious circumstances, and those of individuals not under the care of a physician.

The Medical Examiner is responsible for the investigation of all human deaths requiring investigation; certifying the manner and the cause of all deaths investigated and filing a certificate of death as required by ORS 432.133.

The Medical Examiner is also responsible for reporting of death investigations to the State Medical Examiner, supervising medical-legal death investigators, maintaining a roster of active county medical-legal death investigators, ensuring consistent and accurate documentation of cases in the medical examiner information system, and coordinating with the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement agencies, local funeral homes, and families of the deceased.

The County's current contracted Medical Examiner, Dr. Jana VanAmburg, is retiring. Her contract expires at the end of September.

In preparation for the expiration of the current contract, staff issued an RFQ for Medical Examiner Services on July 6. The County did not receive responses to the RFQ and extended it in late July.

Two providers responded to the RFQ: Dr. Anne Onishi and Maureen McCaffrey, PA-C. The two responding providers have proposed that they will work jointly and in collaboration to support County Medical Examiner Services.

Staff from the District Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and County Administration have reviewed the proposals, in coordination with the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Staff are currently finalizing negotiations on contract terms and seek Board approval for County Administrator and District Attorney signatures on contract 2022-781 for Medical Examiner Services.

Estimated annual cost for FY23 is estimated to be \$365,000 including death investigations, mortuary services, reporting, and other associated expenses.

During FY22, the County spent \$241,582 for Medical Examiner services and associated expenses. During FY21, costs were \$220,617.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

*Costs to provide Medical Examiner services are included in the FY 22-23 budget.*

**ATTENDANCE:**

*Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator*

*Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator*