

# CORONER

The Coroner is an elected law enforcement official who conducts independent investigations into violent and suspicious deaths that occur in the county. He is responsible for legally deciding if a death is a homicide, suicide, accident, or natural death; determining the cause of death such as suffocation, drug overdose, drowning, and all other causes of death; determining the legal identity of each and every person that dies a violent or suspicious death in the county; and notifies families when a violent or suspicious death occurs in the county. The Coroner uses DNA, fingerprints, x-rays, and other methods to make legal determinations of the cause of death. The Coroner also has subpoena power to assist him in death investigations.

## Financial Information

DEPT NUMBER: 1-9305	CORONER						
	FY 04/05 ACTUAL	FY 05/06 ACTUAL	FY 06/07 BUDGET	FY 07/08 RECOMM	FY 07/08 ADOPTED	\$ INC/DEC FY 08 - 07	% INC/DEC FY 08 - 07
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>							
Personnel Services Expenditures	317,993	360,647	380,058	410,232	<b>395,610</b>	15,552	4.1%
Operating Expenditures	384,581	496,583	427,250	500,510	<b>500,510</b>	73,260	17.1%
Capital Expenditures	2,695	17,183	28,000	12,600	<b>12,600</b>	(15,400)	-55.0%
Other Expenditures	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0.0%
<b>EXPENDITURE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$705,269</b>	<b>\$874,412</b>	<b>\$835,308</b>	<b>\$923,342</b>	<b>\$908,720</b>	<b>\$73,412</b>	<b>8.8%</b>

## Personnel Information

CORONER	GRADE	FY 04/05	FY 05/06	*FY 06/07	FY 07/08 RECOMM	FY 07/08 ADOPTED	INC/DEC FY 08 - 07	EXEMPT (Y/N)
Coroner	Elected	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	Y
Senior Administrative Assistant	20	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	N
Chief Investigator	19	1	1	1	1	<b>1</b>	0	N
Investigator	17	3	3	4	4	<b>4</b>	0	N
Secretary	12	0	0	0	1	<b>0</b>	0	N
<b>TOTAL, CORONER</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	

\*Includes any changes made during FY 06/07

## FY 08 Budget Highlights & Initiatives

The Coroner's FY 08 Adopted Budget reflects the following changes and initiatives:

- Vehicle fuel, maintenance, and repairs are budgeted at \$18,050.
- Post Mortem Autopsies increase \$68,000, from \$350,000 to \$418,000 based on historical expenditures.
- Radios are budgeted at \$4,000. All paid investigators and reserve officers must have radio communications to respond to calls.

## Additional Responsibilities

The Coroner's responsibilities in death investigation are the same whether one person is killed in an automobile collision or if a commercial airline crashes with hundreds of deaths. He uses toxicology and the results from a pathologist to determine the cause of death in each of these cases. After reviewing all facts and collecting all of the evidence, the Coroner rules as to the manner of death – homicide, suicide, accident, or natural death.

**SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA  
FY 08 ADOPTED OPERATING BUDGET**

*(CORONER'S OFFICE CONTINUED)*

Many cases are complex. The problem with drug abuse in Spartanburg County now creates problems when deciding if an overdose is intentional or accidental. There are other cases involving drugs that are considered homicides and the Coroner must make a legal ruling in each of these deaths. He routinely investigates the following types of death: murder, suicide, fire, automobile collisions, plane crashes, boating accidents, hunting accidents, and any and all other violent and suspicious deaths including incidents such as individuals falling down the stairs in their homes and incidents where people fall from trees while trimming or fall from houses under construction. Other types of investigations deal with lightning and other electrical related deaths as well as farming accidents and incidents such as dog attacks. He must also investigate anytime a medical error causes a death of an individual. In each case, the Coroner must maintain a chain of evidence with any evidence collected and also maintain an evidence room that preserves evidence for testing and for court purposes.

The Coroner's office responds to each and every scene as calls are received. It is not unusual to receive three (3) calls in less than one (1) hour. This requires all employees to be on call seven (7) days a week, twenty-four (24) hours a day. The scene must be secured and protected until the Coroner's Investigator arrives to conduct an investigation. The Investigator must be in route within ten (10) minutes of receiving the call to investigate a death.

**Vehicle and Capital Equipment Replacement**

Funding for vehicle and capital equipment replacement is accounted for in the General Fund Vehicle and Capital Equipment project in the Capital Projects Fund. Vehicles and capital equipment to be replaced are noted here for informational purposes only, and are not included in the department budget.

<b>Equip. Number</b>	<b>Recommend Replacing With</b>	<b>Repl. Cost</b>
1305	Ford Crown Victoria or Similar	\$22,000
1381	Ford Crown Victoria or Similar	\$22,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$44,000</b>