

**District Attorney's Office**  
**Cost-Benefit Analysis**  
**for Autopsy Technician Positions Request**

**Actual Expenditure Analysis for Autopsy Services & Pauper Burial Services**  
**for the Years 2005-2011**

Account Number	Account Name	Years							*2011 Estimated Expenditures	Totals
		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011		
1100-421-00-080-003-0-344	Autopsies-Autopsy Services	540,702	383,757	627,045	781,986	582,521	574,154	367,445	<b>3,857,609</b>	
1100-444-00-240-002-0-345	Pauper Burial-Pauper Burial Svcs	96,177	115,550	132,765	189,690	177,140	91,027	66,907	<b>869,256</b>	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>636,878</b>	<b>499,307</b>	<b>759,810</b>	<b>971,676</b>	<b>759,661</b>	<b>665,182</b>	<b>434,351</b>	<b>4,726,864</b>	

<b>Average Annual Expenditures During Seven (7) Year Period</b>	<b>\$ 675,266</b>
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\*2011 expenditures are projected and are included in the Average Annual Expenditures

**Positions Request Cost Analysis**

No. of Positions	Position Title	Grade & Step	Annual Salary	Annual Fringes	Total Annual Cost per Position	Total Annual Cost for Positions Requested
2	Autopsy Technician	11, 1	40,078	10,741	50,819	<b>101,638</b>

<b>Cost Difference (Average Annual Exp vs. Annual Positions Cost)</b>	<b>573,629</b>	<b>Annual Cost Savings</b>
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**Contractual Analysis**  
**In Relation to Autopsy Services & Pauper Burial Services**

Contract No.	Vendor	Contract Term	Cost per Body	Purpose of Contract
C-10-003-09-28	RGV Transport Services, LLC	10/14/10-10/13/12	75.00 with body bag; 60.00 w/out body bag	Dead body pickup and transportation of bodies to Funeral Home
C-2010-002-09-28	Valley Forensics, PLLC (Norma Jean Farley, MD)	9/28/10-9/27/12 with one additional year extension	As outlined in Cost Proposal (depending on type of service); \$1,450.00/full autopsy	Perform Forensic Autopsy Services (i.e. Medical Examiner)

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**Contractual Analysis**  
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<b>Contract No.</b>	<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Contract Term</b>	<b>Cost per Body</b>	<b>Purpose of Contract</b>
C-10-243-07-06	Ceballos Funeral Home	7/6/10-1/5/11 with holdover provision	Storage Fees, \$250.00/body/month; Facility Fees, \$85.00/Body/Autopsy; Body/Cooler Storage Fee, \$75.00/body/day after 24 hr period	Storage of Bodies until released/buried and serves as Autopsy Facility for Medical Examiner
C-10-291-12-21	Mid Valley Cemeteries, Inc. d/b/a Val Verde Memorial Gardens	12/21/10-12/13/11	\$1,645.00/body	Plot Services for unidentified bodies/pauper remains (i.e. John Does)
C-09-002-01-06	Memorial Funeral Home	1-6-09-12-31-09 with one year extension	\$650.00/adult body; \$450.00/infant body	Pauper Funeral & Burial Services for Indigent individuals

**Conclusion/Recommendations**

It was determined by performing the above Cost-Benefit Analysis, that it would be cost effective for the County to approve the two (2) Autopsy Technician positions, as requested by the DA's Office. The County spent an annual average of \$675,266.00 in relation to Autopsy services and Pauper Burial services during a seven (7) year period. For the year 2011 it is estimated that the County will spend a total of \$434,351.00. The County has five (5) current contracts in place as indicated in the above Contractual Analysis. The costs can be reduced by approving the Autopsy Technician positions, since part of the duties of the technicians would be to transport the bodies to the funeral homes, thus reducing transportation costs. The Autopsy Technicians would work closely with the JP's Office and local PD's in order to assist in the speedy identification of bodies. If Commissioners Court decide to build a County Morgue and establish a Medical Examiner's Office, it would be considered a cost effective measure and a long term capital investment, since it would reduce the storage of bodies fees, transportation of bodies costs, and the cost of performing autopsies by an independent forensic pathologist.