

Department of Laboratories & Research

2019 Executive Proposed Budget



Core Programs & Functions

- **Medical Examiner** - Investigates cause and manor of deaths in Westchester “due to unlawful act, criminal neglect, violence, casualties, or by sudden or unexplained circumstances”
- **Forensic** — Performs DNA analysis on crime scene evidence, drugs submitted by law enforcement agencies throughout the County, analysis of audio video evidence such as surveillance videos of crime scenes and trace evidence analysis including paint samples from hit and run cases.
- **Toxicology** — Analysis of biological samples from autopsies, DWI DWAI, DFSA specimens for alcohol, drugs and medications. Toxicology continues to support the breath alcohol instruments.
- **Microbiology** — Diagnostic Testing provided for TB, STDs, Communicable Disease outbreaks (e.g.: Measles, Norovirus, Legionella) and Biodefense
- **Environmental** — Bacteriology, Organic and Inorganic Chemistry sections testing water for bacterial pathogens from fecal materials, heavy metals (e.g.: lead, arsenic) and carcinogens (e.g.: pesticides, herbicides, petroleum products and greenhouse gases)

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Operating Positions	97	99
Trust Positions	6	4
TOTAL POSITIONS	103	103
Personal Service	8,203,010	9,045,401
Equipment		
Materials & Supplies	1,209,160	1,136,500
Contractual Expenses	856,555	1,002,950
Inter-Departmental Charges	3,133,046	3,461,807
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	13,401,771	14,646,658

Budget Summary

ITEM	2018	2019
Inter-Departmental Revenue	10,000	5,000
Departmental Revenue	2,584,000	2,544,000
State & Federal Aid	1,122,000	1,312,759
TOTAL REVENUE	3,716,000	3,861,759
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	9,685,771	10,784,899

New Initiatives & Highlights

- The opiate/opioid crisis has increased the need for analysis of all casework in Toxicology. The Forensic Drug Chemistry section is coordinating with the overdose response initiative to provide intel to the DA's office.
- The DNA section is developing methods to analyze trace amounts of DNA from crime scene evidence and methods that will allow for faster input of DNA profiles into the FBI DNA database Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
- The Microbiology division is moving towards more molecular testing (DNA) for disease causing organisms (TB, Flu, STDs, Norovirus) reducing turn around time significantly.

New Initiatives & Highlights

- The Environmental division is implementing EPA methods for testing drinking water for PFOS/PFOA Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid and Perfluorooctanoic acid (carcinogens from fire retardants and fire fighting foams) and Microcystins (toxins from lake water)
- Toxicology is validating a new Liquid Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry instrument which uses a smaller quantity specimen, but is more sensitive allowing analysis on complicated multi drug cases.