

Department of Laboratories & Research

2020 Executive Proposed Budget



Core Programs & Functions

- **Medical Examiner** – Investigates cause and manner 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	2019	2020
Operating Positions	100	102
Trust Positions	4	4
TOTAL POSITIONS	104	106
Personal Service	8,971,691	9,262,645
Equipment		505,000
Materials & Supplies	1,229,129	1,154,500
Contractual Expenses	1,052,882	933,950
Inter-Departmental Charges	3,461,807	3,571,119
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	14,715,509	15,427,214

Budget Summary

ITEM	2019	2020
Inter-Departmental Revenue	5,000	5,000
Departmental Revenue	2,544,000	2,576,000
State & Federal Aid	1,312,759	1,316,102
TOTAL REVENUE	3,861,759	3,897,102
DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY	10,853,750	11,530,112

New Initiatives & Highlights

- The Forensic & Toxicology Divisions are working with the DA's office and IT to ensure compliance with the new Discovery Law.
- 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.
- Toxicology is now sending DWI reports electronically to the DA's office and Law Enforcement. Also new workflows have reduced turnaround time for Medical Examiner testing.
- 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 Forensic Lab will be applying new technologies to analyze new designer synthetic opioids that are appearing in the County.

New Initiatives & Highlights

- The Microbiology division is moving towards more molecular testing (DNA) for disease causing organisms (TB, Flu, STDs, Norovirus, Vibrio, Giardia, Salmonella and Pertussis, etc) reducing turn around time significantly.
- Sexually transmitted diseases are on the rise, especially syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia infections. The FDA has approved the instrument we currently use, by this approval of additional body site testing not previously validated, there will be increased detection of these infections resulting in increased follow-up and treatment.
- 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). Quality Control is critical, Environmental is automating the collating and tracking of new quality control requirements set forth by NYS Environmental Laboratory Approval Program.