

# Laboratories & Research

2025 Executive Proposed Budget

# Core Programs & Functions (cont.)

The Department of Laboratories & Research Provides Necessary Services to the Community, including:

**Criminal Justice-Related Services** – Support of the Judicial System process to uphold laws and prosecute criminals.

**Public Health & Safety-Related Services** – Provides necessary services to keep out communities safe.

Office of the Medical Examiner	Forensic Sciences	Forensic Toxicology	Environmental Services	Microbiological Services
<p>- Investigates &amp; determines the cause and manner of death “due to unlawful act, criminal neglect, violence, casualties, or by sudden or unexplained circumstances.”</p>	<p>- Analysis of physical evidence (e.g., DNA, Seized Drug (controlled substances), fibers, hair, fire debris (arson), &amp; gunshot residue).</p> <p>- Audio, video, &amp; image analyses.</p> <p>- Local, State, &amp; National Entities</p>	<p>- Analysis for the presence of alcohol, drugs, &amp; other toxic compounds (post-mortem medicolegal investigations).</p> <p>- Provides information to the ME’s office in order to formulate conclusions regarding circumstances of death.</p> <p>- Also performs DWI investigations &amp; drug facilitated sexual assault investigations.</p>	<p>- Monitoring of drinking water, wastewater treatment operations &amp; abnormal emergency events.</p> <p>- Government Agencies, Health Officials, Engineers, Hospitals, Homeowners, Residents, &amp; Others.</p>	<p>- Diagnosis &amp; identification of infectious agents that may cause diseases of public health significance.</p> <p>- One of Four CDC Laboratory Response Network (LRN) Labs in NYS (Testing for Biological Agents of Bioterrorism &amp; New and Emergent Pathogens, including Covid-19).</p> <p>- Covid-19 Response</p>

# Budget Summary

ITEM	2024	2025
Operating Positions	105	105
Trust Positions	4	4
<b>TOTAL POSITIONS</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>109</b>
Personal Service	\$9,786,666	\$10,300,175
Equipment	\$195,868	\$100,783
Materials & Supplies	\$1,319,500	\$1,363,501
Contractual Expenses	\$1,264,142	\$1,283,731
Inter-Departmental Charges	\$4,840,736	\$4,535,778
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$17,406,912</b>	<b>\$17,583,968</b>

# Budget Summary

ITEM	2024	2025
Inter-Departmental Revenue	\$5,000	\$6,000
Departmental Revenue	\$2,609,708	\$2,662,432
State & Federal Aid	\$2,467,697	\$2,517,050
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,082,405</b>	<b>\$5,185,482</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY</b>	<b>\$12,324,507</b>	<b>\$12,398,486</b>

# New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Environmental Services)

- Lead-Free Parks Act Drinking Fountain Testing
- Bronx River Watershed Study – NYC DEP
  - Testing of Combined Sewer/Storm Overflow Events' impact on the Bronx River
- Ossining Beach Swimming Area Feasibility
  - Water sampling project
- Accreditation for Quantitative Analysis of PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl Substances)
  - Emerging contaminate class that is the current focus of Federal and NYS regulations.
  - PFAS validation in progress for 18 PFAs will be complete early Q1 2025
- Laboratory Information System Upgrade
- Enterococcus Beach Monitoring – New Methodology Validated
  - More resource efficient
- New Client Accounts
  - Village of Bronxville – Water Supply Monitoring
  - Boomi Environmental Consulting
  - Hudson Valley Stream Conservancy
  - Blue Ski Home Inspector
  - Hilltop Hanover Farms

# New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Forensic Sciences)

- ANAB Full Re-Accreditation Completed
- Completed validation of two electron microscopes
  - Increases the lab's capabilities for completing gunshot residue analysis.
- Governor's 2023 State of the State Initiative to reduce violent crimes
  - Now participate in a new searchable forensics DNA index and now accept swabs of guns recovered in connection with criminal possession offenses.
- New Instrument Validations For:
  - Marijuana & Psychedelic Testing
  - Fentanyl Analog Analysis
  - Trace Evidence (Paints & Fibers)
- County DA Partnership
  - DA Conviction Review Unit – Determine if adjudicated cases are suitable for testing
  - Cold Case Unit – Assist to identify unknown victims of crimes

# New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Microbiology)

- Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption/Ionization-Time of Flight (MALDI-TOF) Testing
  - Faster turnaround times and confirmatory identification for bacterial cultures
- New Putnam County DOH Contract - Mycobacteriology (TB) Testing
- Continuation of MPOX Testing

# New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Toxicology)

- Validation of Improved LC-QTOF Technology
  - Initial screening of drugs – higher sensitivity, higher level of confidence in screening results, reducing turnaround times for cases.
- Validation of New Method for Quantitation of Delta-8 and Delta-9 THC in urine
  - Several cases already identified with Delta-8 THC
- Transition of Confirmation Methods from Gas to Liquid Chromatography
  - Less sample prep required, reduced testing time, reduced costs
  - Already moved PCP/Ketamine and Cocaine to this new methodology



# New Initiatives/Program Highlights (Medical Examiner)

- **Implementation of Best Practices**
  - Shift from full autopsies to external exams (prevention of unnecessary autopsies) due to:
    - Increased access to electronic medical record data
    - Improved Forensics and Toxicology data
- **Partnership with Department of Community Mental Health**
  - Data extraction of suicide prevention statistics
  - In process of developing fentanyl overdose statistics to support DOCMH efforts
- **Total # of cases reviewed by the ME's Office in 2024 is trending higher than 2023**