Date: March 1, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
   Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelbury
       County Administrator

Re: Revised Fee Ordinance for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner

I have attached a February 23, 2021 memorandum from Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Gregory Hess. The memorandum identifies increases in fee for service charges. Pima County provides medical examining services to a number of other counties and agencies.

The last fee increase was in 2015; therefore, it is appropriate to make the fee adjustments as outlined in the attached material. I will have this item placed on the Board’s agenda for review and authorization at a future Board meeting.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
   Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
   Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer, Health and Community Services
   Dr. Gregory Hess, Chief Medical Examiner, Office of the Medical Examiner
MEMORANDUM

Date: February 23, 2021

To: Chuck Huckelberry
   County Administrator

From: Gregory Hess, M.D.
   Chief Medical Examiner

Via: Francisco Garcia, M.D.
     Deputy County Administrator

Re: Proposed revisions to PCOME Fee Ordinance 2018-36 – future Board agenda item

Pima County has a long history of offering postmortem examination and death investigation services to other Arizona Counties for which Pima County is remunerated by either an IGA or a fee-for-service billing structure as outlined in the attached Board approved Fee Ordinance. Our current, in effect, fee ordinance (Ordinance 2018-36) is attached for reference. Over time, our operating costs for personnel, ancillary studies such as toxicology testing, etc., increase. On review of Ordinance 2018-36, those cost increases have not be reflected in fee increases since 2015. Ordinance 2015-23 strike through is attached for reference. In this 2015 ordinance, fees for autopsies and external examinations were increased slightly from the previously set fees. Although the ordinance was updated in 2017 and again in 2018 to reflect document retention and remains storage, postmortem examination fees were not addressed during those previous revisions. I believe it is time to increase those fees to reflect our increased costs. A strike through version of our current ordinance, Ordinance 2018-36 strike through, is attached and the proposed changes are copied below for ease of reference.

1. SERVICE FEES
   A. Procedures for counties other than Pima:
      1) Autopsies - $2,300 $2,500 per autopsy
      2) External Examinations - $600 $800 per examination
      3) External Examinations with toxicology - $900 $1,000 per examination

As you know, this proposal has no negative impact on the Pima County taxpayer and only affects fee-for-service charges to counties other than Pima or other entities that wish to use Pima County’s postmortem examination services. Typical fee-for-service utilizers include, but are not limited to, Navajo, Apache, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties; tribal entities such as Fort Apache, San Carlos, Tohono O’Odham, Pascua Yaqui; and Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Gregory L. Hess, M.D. Chief Medical Examiner
ORDINANCE 2018 –36

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, RELATING TO THE PIMA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER; AMENDING FEES FOR SERVICES

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona finds that:

1. The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner has authority under A.R.S. §§ 11-594(E), 11-597.02(D), and 39-121.01(D) to charge fees for services and materials.
2. The Board of Supervisors has determined that it is reasonable to amend the fees charged by the Office of the Medical Examiner in order to defray its reasonable costs.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Ordinance 2017-11, adopted on April 18, 2017 is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Unless otherwise agreed and memorialized in an Intergovernmental Agreement, the following fee schedule is adopted for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner:

I. SERVICE FEES
   A. Procedures for counties other than Pima:
      1) Autopsies - $2,300 per autopsy
      2) External Examinations - $600 per examination
      3) External Examinations with toxicology - $900 per examination
   B. Cremation authorization - $32 per authorization
   C. Body Storage Fees:
      1) $75 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released
      2) $75 per day for out-of-county indigent cases, 15 business days after notification body may be released
   D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - $500 per hour plus travel and per diem
   E. Funeral directors or the funeral establishment they are associated with will supply body bags to replace those in which they receive decedents. Body bags are to be of the same type and quality as received. In lieu of this body bag exchange, the funeral director or funeral establishment may pay $50 per bag.
II. REPRODUCTION COSTS
A. Commercial: Fees assessed for reproduction of documents or materials for a commercial request may vary depending on the nature of the request and will be determined by the following:
1) The cost of obtaining the materials;
2) The cost of time, materials, equipment and personnel in producing the reproduction; and
3) The value of the reproduction on the commercial market as best determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner
B. Non-commercial:
1) Tissue slides - $25 per slide
2) Kodachrome slides - $7 per slide
3) Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
   a. $1 per print
   b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - $5
4) Copies of documents - $0.25 per page plus postage as necessary
C. Family members, health care providers and institutions, law enforcement and other appropriate government agencies will not be charged for reasonable reproduction of documents or photographs as determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner

III. REQUESTS FOR EXTENDED RETENTION
A. Tissue - $10 per month
B. Toxicology
   1) Specimens retained at reference laboratory – retention and fee as specified by reference laboratory
   2) Specimens retained at Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner - $10 per month

IV. EXTENDED RETENTION AND RETRIEVAL OF ARCHIVED ELECTRONIC MATERIALS
A. Electronic media – at cost billing of charges incurred to retain requested materials
B. Retrieval of archived electronic materials – at cost billing of charges incurred to retrieve requested archived materials

V. INDIGENT INTERMENT PROGRAM
A. At cost billing of charges incurred for the interment and associated fees either from the decedents estate or from an authorizing agent, should one be found at a later date
SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 3. If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unenforceable for any reason, all other parts nevertheless remain enforceable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this 4th day of December, 2018.

[Signature]
DEC 04 2018

Chairman, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

[Signature]
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Deputy County Attorney

3 of 3
ORDINANCE NO. 2015-___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, RELATING TO THE PIMA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER; AMENDING FEES FOR SERVICES

The Board of Supervisors of Pima County, Arizona, finds that:

1. The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner has authority under A.R.S. §§ 11-594(E), 11-597.02(D) and 39-121.01(D) to charge fees for services and materials.
2. The Board of Supervisors has determined that it is reasonable to amend the fees charged by the Office of the Medical Examiner in order to defray its reasonable costs.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Ordinance 2013-44, adopted on December 3, 2013, is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Unless otherwise agreed and memorialized in an Intergovernmental Agreement, the following fee schedule is adopted for the Pima County Forensic Science-Center Office of the Medical Examiner:

I. SERVICE FEES
   A. Procedures for counties other than Pima:
      1. Autopsies - $2,200 $2,300 per autopsy.
      2. Skeletal Remains - $1,950.00-$2,000.
      3. External Examinations - $500.00 $600 per examination.
      4. External Examinations with toxicology - $800.00 $900 per examination.
      5. X-Ray Services - $75.00 per decedent (includes copies on CD).
   B. Cremation authorization - $30.00 $32.00 per authorization.
   C. Body Storage Fees:
      1. $75.00 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released.
      2. $75.00 per day for public fiduciary cases, 30 business days after notification body may be released.
D. Pathologists or Anthropologists fees - $400.00 per hour plus travel and per diem.

E. Autopsy Reports:
   1. Commercial users – $125.00 for each report.
   2. Non-commercial users – $5.00 for each report.
   3. Family Members, Health Care Providers (i.e., hospitals & physicians), Social Service Agencies, etc.—first report no charge.

F. Copy Fees:
   1. Tissue Slides—$25.00 per slide.
   2. Kodachrome Slides—$7.00 per slide.
   3. Photographs—$1.00 each print.
      Photographs and/or x-rays per CD: $10.00 (1–5 photos and/or x-rays); $20.00 (6–10 photos or x-rays); and $30.00 (10 or more photos and/or x-rays).
   4. Copies for documents other than autopsy reports: $0.25 per page–photocopied.
      Document Copies on CD: $10.00 (1–10 pages); $20.00 (11–20 pages); and $30.00 (21 or more pages).

G. Funeral Directors or the funeral establishment they are associated with will supply body bags to replace those in which they receive decedents. Body bags are to be of same type and quality as received. In lieu of this body bag exchange, the Funeral Director or funeral establishment may pay $50.00 per body bag.

II. REPRODUCTION COSTS
A. Commercial: Fees assessed for reproduction of documents or materials for a commercial request may vary depending on the nature of the request and will be determined by the following:
   1. The cost of obtaining the materials;
   2. The cost of time, materials, equipment, and personnel in producing the reproduction; and
   3. The value of the reproduction on the commercial market as best determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner.

B. Non-commercial:
   1. Tissue slides - $25.00 per slide
   2. Kodachrome slides - $7.00 per slide
   3. Photographs or other digital media (radiographs, etc.)
      a. $1.00 per print
      b. Reproduction of digital media on a CD - $5.00
   4. Copies of documents - $0.35 per page plus postage as necessary

C. Family members, health care providers and institutions, law enforcement and other appropriate government agencies will not be charged for reasonable reproduction of documents or photographs as determined by the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner.
SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

SECTION 3. If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unenforceable for any reason, all other parts nevertheless remain enforceable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this 2nd day of June, 2015.

Sharon Bronson
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Deputy County Attorney

JONATHAN PINKNEY-BAIRD
ORDINANCE 2018 – ___

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA, RELATING TO THE PIMA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER; AMENDING FEES FOR SERVICES

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA FINDS THAT:

1. The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner has authority under A.R.S. §§ 11-594(E), 11-597.02(D), and 39-121.01(D) to charge fees for services and materials.
2. The Board of Supervisors has determined that it is reasonable to amend the fees charged by the Office of the Medical Examiner in order to defray its reasonable costs.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PIMA COUNTY, ARIZONA:

SECTION 1. Section 1 of Ordinance 2017-11, adopted on April 18, 2017 is amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Unless otherwise agreed and memorialized in an Intergovernmental Agreement, the following fee schedule is adopted for the Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner:

I. SERVICE FEES
A. Procedures for counties other than Pima:
   1) Autopsies - $2,300 $2,500 per autopsy
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   1) $75 per day, 72 hours after notification body may be released
   2) $75 per day for out-of-county indigent cases, 15 business days after notification body may be released
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   A. Tissue - $10 per month
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      1) Specimens retained at reference laboratory – retention and fee as specified by reference laboratory
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   A. Electronic media – at cost billing of charges incurred to retain requested materials
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V. INDIGENT INTERMENT PROGRAM
   A. At cost billing of charges incurred for the interment and associated fees either from the decedents estate or from an authorizing agent, should one be found at a later date

SECTION 2. This Ordinance is effective 30 days after adoption by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.
SECTION 3. If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unenforceable for any reason, all other parts nevertheless remain enforceable.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors, Pima County, Arizona, this ______ day of ____________, 20____.

______________________________________________
Chair, Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:                    APPROVED AS TO FORM:

______________________________________________  _____________________________________________
Clerk of the Board               Deputy County Attorney