

Coroner Update

June 8, 2021

9:33 a.m.

Present: Commissioner Stamper, Commissioner Pollock, Commissioner Swope, Coroner Warren McLeod, Daleyn Coleman, Becky Butler, Angie Palmer, Sherri Dokken, Katie Conradi, Michelle Sauter, Dawn Harris

Guests: Linda Williams, Claudia Yaw, Bill Serrahn

Recorder: Rieva Lester

Warren McLeod said his office has responded to 390 deaths year-to-date, including: 0 homicides, three suicides, 14 accidental deaths, three undetermined and six confirmed drug deaths – all of which were meth-related – and one pending.

Warren requested permission to increase casual-help pay rate for the Deputy Coroner position from \$15.50 per hour to \$21.32 per hour. He noted the specialized training certification required to fill the position.

Warren said the request would be budget neutral for 2021 because funding could be used from the office's budget for extra help.

Daleyn said the pay would be equivalent to a 117 on the salary scale.

Warren said the individuals would not receive their on-call pay of \$25 per shift if they were called out.

Warren said his office has four casual employees.

The commissioners asked Becky Butler to review the potential budgetary impacts of Warren's request.

Becky asked Warren how a recently-passed bill (HB 1326) at the Legislature would affect his office's accreditation requirements. He said he did not believe it would affect his budget because the amount is reimbursable through the Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME). Becky noted that the bill included language indicating that autopsy reimbursements could be withheld if Coroner offices did not obtain the required training.

Warren said he would look into the bill.

Daleyn Coleman said 2019 comps for the Deputy Coroner positions put the position at \$21-25 per hour.

Warren discussed the At Ease program for the unclaimed remains of veterans.

Meeting ended at 9:57 a.m.