

**LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE
PROPOSED COUNTY ORDINANCE**

NAME OF ORDINANCE: Amendment to Ordinance No. 21-16, Cremation District 21 Medical Examiner

I. SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

A. Statement of Purpose

Amending Lee County Cremation Fee Ordinance No. 21-16, increasing the fee from \$60 to \$70; and adopt a Resolution amending Lee County Administrative Code AC-3-10, the External Fees and Charges Manual, in order to update Section EX 17-0 Medical Examiner.

B. Narrative Summary of Ordinance (Several Sentence Summary)

Section 406.11(1)(c), Florida Statutes, requires the District 21 Medical Examiner to determine the cause of death by such examinations, investigations, and autopsies as deemed necessary, when a body is to be cremated, dissected, or buried at sea. Fees imposed for approval to cremate will be used to offset expenses of the Medical Examiner and Lee County.

This item increases the cremation fee imposed on all funeral homes from \$60 to \$70 per Medical Examiner authorization for the cremation. The last time the fee was increased was January 2022. The Medical Examiner is requesting the increase to help defray costs of providing the cremation authorizations, including staff time of physicians and forensic investigators, and storage of records in accordance with state regulations. This increase will reduce the general subsidy for the authorizations as a cremation authorization.

II. BUSINESS IMPACT ESTIMATE

- A. Estimate of direct compliance costs that businesses may reasonably incur if the ordinance is enacted: The agencies and/or businesses requesting the specific service identified in the External Fees and Charges Manual for the District 21 Medical Examiner's Office (EX 17-0) will be charged for the cost. Additional \$10 for each cremation request for cases that are not medical examiner cases.
- B. Identification of any new charge or fee on businesses subject to the proposed ordinance or for which businesses will be financially responsible: The agencies and/or businesses requesting the specific service identified in the External Fees and Charges Manual for the District 21 Medical Examiner's Office (EX 17-0) will be charged for the cost. Costs will vary depending on the specific service requested.
- C. Estimate of the county's regulatory costs, including estimate of revenues from any new charges or fees that will be imposed on businesses to cover such costs: Estimated revenue increase for cremation fee increase is estimated to be an additional \$7,000 to \$7,500 per fiscal year.
- D. Estimate of the number of businesses likely to be impacted by the ordinance: The agencies and/or businesses impacted by the external fees is estimated to be 30 to 50.