



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 13, 2015

DATE: December 5, 2014
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Kevin Schiller, Interim Director, Department of Social Services
schiller@washoecounty.us 775-785-8600
THROUGH: John Slaughter, County Manager
SUBJECT: Approve a ten percent (10%) increase to the reimbursement rates for cremation or burial of indigent persons provided by Washoe County funeral homes, mortuaries and cemeteries.
(All Commission Districts)

SUMMARY

The Department is requesting the Board approve an increase to the reimbursement rates for burial or cremation of indigent persons provided by funeral homes, mortuaries and cemeteries in the County.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Safe, Secure, and Healthy Communities.

PREVIOUS ACTION

There are no known previous actions.

BACKGROUND

Nevada Revised Statute 451.024 states if the deceased person was an indigent or other person for whom the final disposition of the decedent's remains is a responsibility of a county or the State, the appropriate public officer may order the burial of the remains and provide for the respectful disposition of the remains. Washoe County Code 35.260, 45.050 and 45.070 authorizes the County through the Department of Social Services to meet the needs of indigent persons, including cremation or burial services following their death.

The Department is billed monthly by local funeral homes, mortuaries, crematories and cemeteries when the deceased has no family or assets or if a family seeks financial assistance from the County for final arrangements. Cremations are typically performed as it is the less expensive option for the County. Burials are usually reserved solely for religious reasons. Reimbursement is sought by the Veteran's Administration for those identified as having VA benefits.

AGENDA ITEM # 8E

The Department is able to verify that rates for these services have not been increased for at least ten years; however the cost of doing business has increased for these providers.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of this program is budgeted and expensed out of cost centers 210100 and 179300 – Indigent Assistance, in account 710704 – Burials. In FY 13, the total cost for indigent burials was \$226,996; in FY 14, the total cost of indigent burials was \$281,935.

A ten percent increase effective January 1, 2015 will result in additional estimated annual expenditures of approximately \$23,000 to \$29,000. This increase will be the first documented increase in burial assistance payments since before FY 2004.

A schedule of fees is attached.

The FY 15 adopted Indigent Assistance budget has sufficient authority to absorb this increase; no budget adjustments are necessary.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve a ten percent (10%) increase to the reimbursement rates for cremation or burial of indigent persons provided by Washoe County funeral homes, mortuaries and cemeteries.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be "move to approve a ten percent (10%) increase to the reimbursement rates for cremation or burial of indigent persons provided by Washoe County funeral homes, mortuaries and cemeteries".

CREMATION	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Cremation Services Total	\$ 534	\$ 587
<i>breakdown of services:</i>		
Professional Services *	\$ 276	\$ 304
Removal / Transport	\$ 96	\$ 106
Adult cremation	\$ 90	\$ 99
Cremation container	\$ 72	\$ 79
Additional Services:		
Child cremation TOTAL (up to age 9)	\$ 54	\$ 59
Shipping Cremains***	\$ 45	\$ 50

BURIAL	Current Rate	Proposed Rate
Funeral Services Total	\$ 744	\$ 818
<i>breakdown of services:</i>		
Professional Services *	\$ 276	\$ 304
Removal / Transport	\$ 96	\$ 106
Embalming / refrigeration	\$ 180	\$ 198
Casket	\$ 192	\$ 211
Additional Services:		
Infant Burial TOTAL	\$ 90	\$ 99
Child Burial (to to age 2) TOTAL	\$ 210	\$ 231
One hour viewing **	\$ 150	\$ 165

Cemetery		
Adult Burial TOTAL	\$ 444	\$ 488
Infant Burial TOTAL	\$ 108	\$ 119
Child Burial TOTAL	\$ 210	\$ 231

* Includes arrangement conference(s), clerical assistance, cosmetics, dressing, etc. and necessary permits

** Prior approval required. Does not include ID viewings.