

**MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT
MADISON COUNTY, KY
RESOLUTION 2026-025**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT TO ESTABLISH
THE ANNUAL SALARY OF THE CORONER OF MADISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH KRS REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, KRS §64.530 and related statutes provide that the Fiscal Court of each county shall establish the annual salary of the coroner in accordance with the statutory guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Coroner has requested an increase in his salary; and

WHEREAS, the position of coroner carries significant responsibility, including the investigation of deaths within Madison County, the preparation of reports and testimony for legal proceedings, the coordination with law enforcement and medical personnel, and the provision of critical public health information to protect the citizens of Madison County; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Fiscal Court recognizes the dedication, professional expertise, and essential public service provided by the Madison County Coroner and seeks to ensure the position is appropriately compensated in accordance with state law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT AS FOLLOWS:

1. Salary Adjustment: The annual salary of the Madison County Coroner shall be adjusted as prescribed by KRS §64.530 et seq., in the year in which the coroner is elected.
2. Compliance with Law: This resolution is adopted in strict compliance with the timing requirements of state law.
3. Implementation: The County Treasurer is hereby directed to implement this salary adjustment effective January 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MADISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT DOES HEREBY APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION AND AUTHORIZES THE JUDGE/EXECUTIVE AND/OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE SAME ON BEHALF OF THE COUNTY.

Motion made by Bathen, seconded by Combs.

Vote:	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Magistrate James Brian Combs	☒	☐	☐	☐
Magistrate Stephen Lochmueller	☒	☐	☐	☐
Magistrate Billy Ray Hughes	☒	☐	☐	☐
Magistrate Tom Botkin	☒	☐	☐	☐
Judge/Executive Reagan Taylor	☒	☐	☐	☐

Signed:

RT
Reagan Taylor
Madison County Judge/Executive

4-14-2024
Date

Attested:

Kenny Barger
Kenny Barger
Madison County Clerk

4-14-2024
Date



Madison County Coroner's Office

Jimmy Cornelison, Coroner

558 South Keeneland Drive Richmond, KY 40475

Phone: (859) 624-4752 – Fax (859) 624-4770

Deputy Coroners: Carlos B. Coyle, Rick Bates, Gerald Tatum



March 30, 2026

75,000.00
request

To: Reagan Taylor, Madison County Judge Executive

From: Jimmy Cornelison, Madison County Coroner

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as the Madison County Coroner having done so since 1999. I feel I have always fulfilled the 24 hour/7 days per week duties of the coroner per the Kentucky Statutes in a timely, accurate, and professional manner. I am formally submitting this letter requesting a salary adjustment beginning with the Madison County 2026 fiscal year. Below are highlights of my professional activities as Coroner and data on the activities of the Madison County Coroner's office:

- Achieved the status of Master Coroner in 2016, as outlined by the Kentucky Coroner's Association, for completing ≥ 300 death cases.
- Frequently speak to community groups and educational audiences on the role of the Coroner's office, including classes at ECU and the Community Police Academy in Richmond, KY
- Respond to attorneys to provide appropriate information in potential/actual legal cases regarding deaths as well as testify in death cases when required
- Member of the Madison County Child Fatality Committee that intensely investigates deaths of children/adolescents to identify risk factors that are associated with certain causes of childhood/adolescent deaths.
- Member of the Kentucky Coroner's Association having served as President of the organization for two terms. Active in Legislative Committee
- Received the Dr. David Wolfe Award in 2019 (highest award given to active KY Coroners or Medical Examiners)
- Member of the Kentucky Mass Casualty Team who responded to provide recovery efforts for: 1) the 2005 Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans resulting in nearly 1400 deaths; 2) Lexington Airport crash of Comair Flight 5191 in 2006 killing all 47 passengers and two crew members aboard; and, most recently, 3) to Laurel County, KY following the 2025 tornado killing 19 people

The number of deaths between 2022-2025 has remained steady. The office responded to a total 1,057 death scenes and completed an investigation. Sixty-nine or approximately one-fourth of

the deaths in both 2022 and 2023 were confirmed overdoses. The years 2024 and 2025 noted 260 and 257 death investigations, respectively, with a decrease in number of confirmed overdoses at 37 and 30, respectively.

All death investigations require follow-up within five (5) days in order to complete the Death Certificates that are required for the KY Department of Vital Statistics. Likewise, communication with family members and funeral home representatives occurs for each death regardless of time of day or day of the week. Funeral home representatives respond to in-home or Emergency Department deaths in most death cases. However, at other times the body might need transporting to the morgue until funeral home representatives are available or require being transported to Frankfort, KY for an autopsy. All of which require availability of the Coroner or his deputy at these times.

Other responsibilities of the Coroner's office include: annual training and continuing education classes required by the state of Kentucky; working with the Red Cross in efforts to notify family of deaths of loved ones who are actively serving in the U. S. military; death notifications of Madison county residents whose loved one has died outside of Madison county; and, follow-up communication with family and law enforcement on toxicology test results that usually take two weeks or more for final results.

In summary, I appreciate your time and consideration for my request for a salary increase for 2026 fiscal year. This discussion is not all inclusive of what the Coroner's office may encounter on any given day nor do the responsibilities to the community ever change. I continue to be proud to serve the citizens of Madison County and value your mutual respect for this department and my role, specifically.

Respectfully,



Jimmy Cornelison, Madison County Coroner

64.530 Compensation of county officers, employees, deputies and assistants, and members of fiscal court -- Excess fees -- Applicability of KRS 64.368 if population decreases below 70,000.

- (1) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this section, the fiscal court of each county shall fix the reasonable compensation of every county officer and employee except the officers named in KRS 64.535 and the county attorney and jailer. The fiscal court may provide a salary for the county attorney.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, justices of the peace and constables in all counties shall be deemed to be county officers and deputies or assistants of county officers shall be deemed to be county employees, but employees of county boards or commissions which are now authorized by law to fix the compensation of their employees shall not be deemed to be county employees for the purposes of this section.
- (3) In the case of officers compensated from fees, or partly from fees and partly by salary, the fiscal court shall fix the reasonable maximum compensation that any officer except the officers named in KRS 64.535 may receive from both sources. The fiscal court may also fix the reasonable maximum amount that the officer may expend each year for expenses of his office. The fiscal court shall fix annually the reasonable maximum amount, including fringe benefits, which the officer may expend for deputies and assistants, and allow the officer to determine the number to be hired and the individual compensation of each deputy and assistant. Any revenue received by a county clerk in any calendar year shall be used exclusively for the statutory duties of the county clerk and budgeted accordingly. At the conclusion of each calendar year, any excess fees remaining shall be paid to the fiscal court pursuant to KRS 64.152.
- (4) In the case of county officers elected by popular vote and the county attorney, in the event the fiscal court provides him a salary, the monthly compensation of the officer and of his deputies and assistants shall be fixed by the fiscal court, consistent with the provisions of subsection (3) of this section, not later than the first Monday in May in the year in which the officers are elected, and the compensation of the officer shall not be changed during the term but the compensation of his deputies or assistants may be reviewed and adjusted by the fiscal court not later than the first Monday in May of any successive year upon the written request of the officer. On or before August 1, 1966, the fiscal court shall fix the salary provided herein for the county attorneys for the term commencing in January, 1966, notwithstanding any other provisions of this section which may be inconsistent herewith.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall apply to property valuation administrators or their deputies, assistants, and expenses, in any county, or to the circuit court clerk, county clerk, sheriff, jailer, and their deputies, assistants, and expenses, in counties having a population of seventy thousand (70,000) or more. If a county's population that equaled or exceeded seventy thousand (70,000) is less than seventy thousand (70,000) after the most recent federal decennial census, then the provisions of KRS 64.368 shall apply.
- (6) Justices of the peace serving on a fiscal court in any county, and county

commissioners serving on a fiscal court in any county shall be paid for their services, out of the county treasury, not to exceed the maximum compensation allowable under KRS 64.527. The fiscal court shall fix the amount to be received within the above limit, but no change of compensation shall be effective as to any member of a fiscal court during his term of office. All of said annual salaries shall be payable monthly. Justices of the peace and county commissioners shall not receive any compensation for their services on the fiscal court, other than as provided by this section; provided, however, justices of the peace and county commissioners may receive no more than three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600) annually or three hundred dollars (\$300) per month as an expense allowance for serving on committees of the fiscal court. The fiscal court shall fix the amount to be received within the above limit, but no change of compensation except as provided in KRS 64.285 shall be effective as to any member of a fiscal court during his term of office.

Effective: January 1, 2015

History: Amended 2014 Ky. Acts ch. 92, sec. 29, effective January 1, 2015. -- Amended 2010 Ky. Acts ch. 175, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2010. -- Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 255, sec. 8, effective January 1, 2007. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 71, sec. 5, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 1992 Ky. Acts ch. 220, sec. 8, effective January 1, 1994. -- Amended 1988 Ky. Acts ch. 249, sec. 7, effective July 15, 1988. -- Amended 1984 Ky. Acts ch. 22, sec. 1, effective February 23, 1984. -- Amended 1982 Ky. Acts ch. 384, sec. 3, effective July 15, 1982; and ch. 385, sec. 22, effective July 1, 1982. -- Amended 1978 Ky. Acts ch. 196, sec. 1, effective June 17, 1978; and ch. 384, sec. 131, effective June 17, 1978. -- Amended 1976 (1st Extra. Sess.) Ky. Acts ch. 17, sec. 20, effective January 1, 1978; and ch. 14, sec. 40, effective January 2, 1978. -- Amended 1976 Ky. Acts ch. 306, sec. 1. -- Amended 1974 Ky. Acts ch. 60, sec. 2; and ch. 254, sec. 4. -- Amended 1972 Ky. Acts ch. 30, sec. 1; ch. 203, sec. 5; and ch. 358, sec. 1. -- Amended 1970 Ky. Acts ch. 203, sec. 1. -- Amended 1968 Ky. Acts ch. 152, sec. 33. -- Amended 1966 Ky. Acts ch. 15, sec. 2; and ch. 255, sec. 75. -- Amended 1964 Ky. Acts ch. 109, sec. 3. -- Amended 1962 Ky. Acts ch. 214, sec. 1. -- Amended 1958 Ky. Acts ch. 126, sec. 2. -- Amended 1956 Ky. Acts ch. 144, sec. 1. -- Created 1950 Ky. Acts ch. 123, sec. 9.