RESOLUTION # 80 - 2026

Resolution to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022 for the Purpose of Funding Improvements to Morgue Cooler & Equipment.

Resolution approved for presentation to the Oneida County Board by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, in 2021, a nationwide settlement agreement was reached by and between several pharmaceutical companies and a class containing most states, counties, and a number of cities and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the Governor signed legislation (2021 Wisconsin Act 57) which outlines the distribution and use of Wisconsin's share of settlement funds of over $400 million, with 70% of the proceeds being allocated to Wisconsin counties; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Wisconsin Joint Committee on Finance approved a plan which earmarks counties' use of the funds toward abatement efforts; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Oneida County adopted Resolution #58-2022 agreeing to the settlement terms with total settlement proceeds estimated to be $1.48 million; and

WHEREAS, projects and programs benefiting from the funds must comply with the Settlement Agreement restrictions of expenditures limited to defined categories of Treatment, Prevention, and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, according to the Oneida County Finance Director the balance of available Opioid Settlement Funds and investment income thereon, net of any previously approved commitments, is $921,360.92 as of August 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Oneida County Medical Examiner has indicated the lack of a County toxicology lab refrigerator, extensive transport costs and need for a lockable refrigerator with accurate holding temperatures; and

WHEREAS, The Oneida County Medical Examiner has indicated a county cooler will enable optimal documentation and security pertaining to the chain of custody, reduce time and travel costs and provide a secure and private space for necessary toxicology draws for exams, and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee is in agreement and recommends this project / program be funded using Opioid Settlement funds; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors that this project / program be funded using Opioid Settlement funds contingent upon passage of the proposed 2027 budget.

Vote Required: Majority = ✓ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____

The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes ✓ No _____ as reviewed by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: 10/26/26

Approved for presentation to the County Board by the Executive Committee this 21st day of October 2026.

Consent Agenda Item: X YES _____ NO

Fiscal Impact

- ☐ Included in Resolution
- ☒ Attached
- ☐ N/A

Offered and passage moved by:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain
Supervisor Billy Fried	X		
Supervisor Scott Holewinski	X		
Supervisor Ted Cushing	X		
Supervisor Michael Tautges	X		
Supervisor Dan Hess	X		
Supervisor Debbie Condado	X		
Supervisor Russ Fisher			

Youth in Governance

21 Ayes	4
0 Nays	0
0 Absent	
0 Abstain	
X Adopted	

by the County Board of Supervisors this 10 day November, 2026.

_____ Defeated

Tracy Hartman, County Clerk

Scott Holewiński, County Board Chair

Consent Agenda

Supervisors	AYE	NAY	ABS	ABSTAIN
Condado	X			
Sorgel	X			
Lopez	X			
Almekinder	X			
Newman	X			
Hess	X			
Burns	X			
Fisher	X			
Jensen	X			
Schultz	X			
Kilbourn	X			
Fried	X			
Hamburg	X			
Timmons	X			
Oettinger	X			
Briggs	X			
Tautges	X			
Campbell	X			
Sheppard	X			
Cushing	X			
Holewinski	X			
TOTALS	21			
Youth In Governance				
L. Deede	X			
Tautges	X			
Walden	X			
J. Deede	X			
Carpenter				
Novak				
Tran				
Wotachek				

Motion Jensen / Second Sorgel

Resolution # 76 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Tax Foreclosed Real Estate Parcel Identification Number RH-1327 to Abbey Dall Lukowski.

Resolution # 77 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Offered by the Supervisors of the Land Records Committee to Convey Tax Foreclosed Real Estate Parcel Identification Number PE-533-6 to Lori Marschke.

Resolution # 78 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Designate Oneida County Public Depositories.

Resolution # 79 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022 for the Purpose of a Local Match to a 2027 Treatment Alternative and Diversion (TAD) Grant.

Resolution # 80 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Authorize the Expenditure of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in Accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021 and Oneida County Resolution #58-2022 for the Purpose of Funding Improvements to Morgue Cooler & Equipment.

Resolution # 81 – 2026 / Ordinance Amendment # 06 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Solid Waste Committee to Amend Chapter 8, Solid Waste Management of the General Code of Oneida County.

Resolution # 82 – 2026: Offered by the Supervisors of the Executive Committee to Provide a General Wage Increase for General Municipal Employees.

Appointments to Committees, Commissions and other Organizations:
Re-Appoint Harry Whidden to the Civil Service Commission for a 5-year term to expire in December 2031.

Oneida County

Opioid Settlement Funding Request Form

2027 - 2029

Purpose: Form used to request preliminary approval for the use of Opioid Settlement Funds allocated to Oneida County in accordance with Wisconsin Act 57 of 2021. Detail on permitted opioid related expenditures available by request.

	Project Overview
Project Title	Morgue Cooler and Equipment Request
Department(s)	Medical Examiner
Proj. Manager(s)	Cambrya Hurlburt

select one	Committee of Jurisdiction Ranking
x	High - resolves serious health/public safety opioid-related crisis; has a widespread impact; ancillary benefits are well-defined; reduces and/or does not burden ongoing operating budget(s).
	Medium - provides short-term fix for existing opioid-related issue; addresses anticipated health/public safety opioid-related concern; serves broad community needs; impact on operating budget is minimal.
	Low - address an issue indirectly correlated to the opioid abuse; new project or program which may require long-term funding; impact on larger community is minimal; will require on-going operating budget support.

select one	Expenditure Category
	Treatment (support treatment & recovery; connect to care criminal-justice /parent / neonatal)
	Prevention (appropriate prescribing/dispensing; misuse of opioids; prevent overdose)
x	Other Strategies (first responders; leadership/planning; training; research)

Project Description & Justification

The Medical Examiner's Office requests funding for a morgue cooler with working accessories, bariatric transport cots with working accessories, and a lab grade toxicology refrigerator. We currently lack a toxicology lab refridgerator for holding samples. Best practice standards for accurate testing, safety, and security require a lockable refrigerator with accurate holding temperatures. Our transport cots are narrow and well used and eventually will come to the end of their service life and need replacement. They are often inadequate for worker safety and dignified transport of larger decedents in overdose cases. We currently borrow morgue space from surrounding hospitals. A county morgue cooler will enable optimal documentation and security pertaining to of chain of custody, reduce time and travel cost, and provide a secure and private space for necessary toxicology draws and exams. Supplying this equipment will enable the Medical Examiner's Office to use best practice to safely and efficiently manage rising opioid -related case loads, ensure accurate toxicology testing, maintain dignity for decedents and families, and strengthen overdose surveilance data and chain of custody requirements in support of Oneida County's opioid abatement goals.

Cost & Funding Summary

	Prior Yr Funding	2027	2028	2029	Project Total
Opioid Funds		100,000.00			$ 100,000.00
Dept. Fund Balance					$ -
Tax Levy					$ -
Other (grant)					$ -
Total	$ -	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00

Opioid Abatement Funds for Medical Examiner Infrastructure

MORGUE COOLER - TOXICOLOGY REFRIGERATOR - BARIATRIC TRANSPORT COTS

Role of the Medical Examiner's Office

Investigate and certify overdose deaths

Conduct toxicology analysis and track drug trends

Generate critical public health data for prevention and response

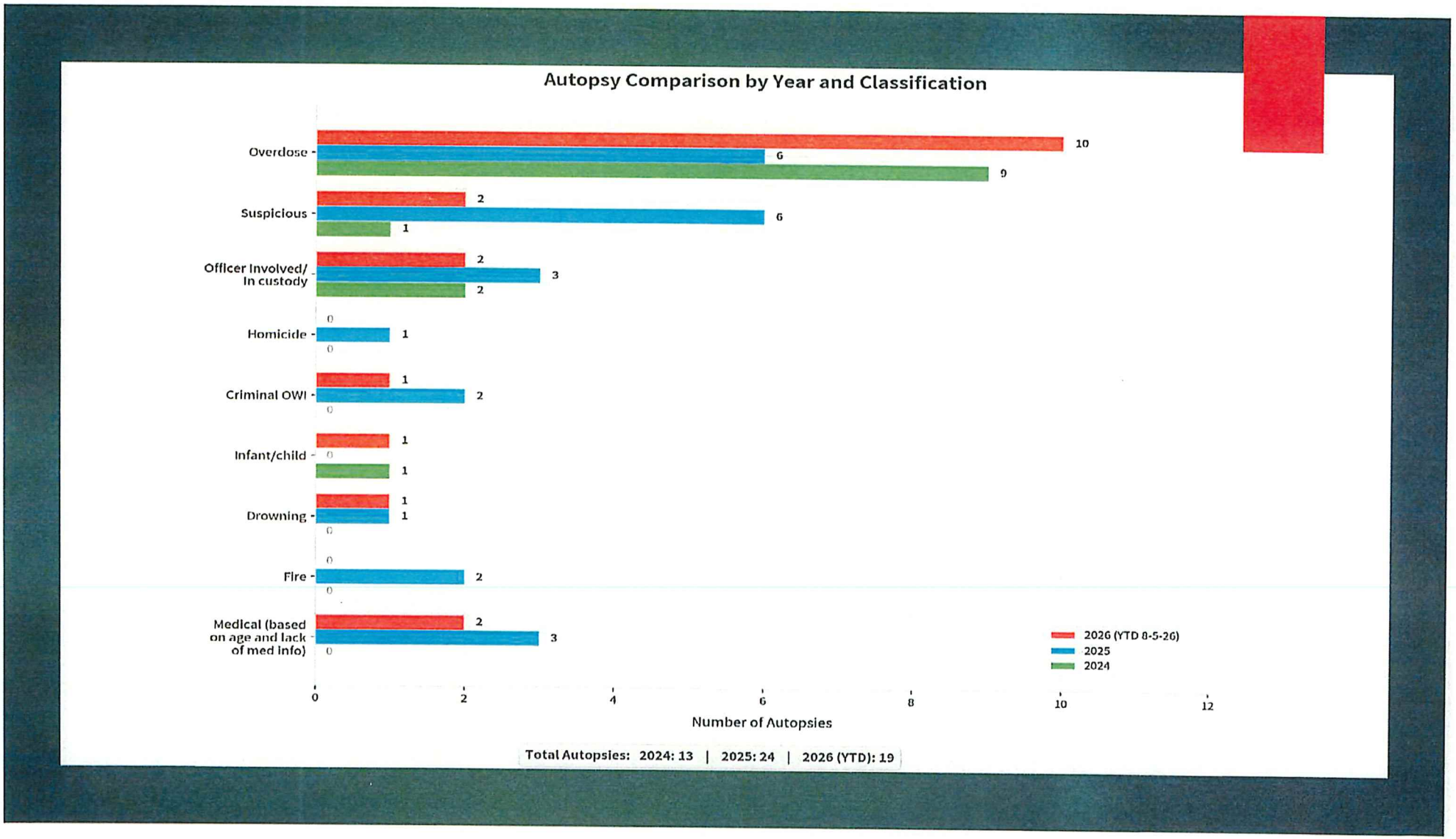
Support grieving families and coordinate with community partners

Key frontline partner in mitigation of the opioid epidemic

Strong ME infrastructure= Better data, faster insights, and more effective use of abatement funds.

The Opioid Crisis in Oneida, Vilas, and Forest Counties

- Overdose deaths remain a leading cause of preventable mortality locally
- Rising case loads strain death investigation resources, including toxicology and body handling
- Increased complexity due to fentanyl and polysubstance overdose.


Autopsy Comparison by Year and Classification
Overdose
10
6
9
Suspicious
2
6
1
Officer Involved/ In custody
2
3
2
Homicide
0
1
0
Criminal OWI
1
2
0
Infant/child
1
0
1
Drowning
1
1
0
Fire
0
2
0
Medical (based on age and lack of med info)
2
3
0
2026 (YTD 8-5-26)
2025
2024
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
Number of Autopsies
Total Autopsies: 2024: 13 | 2025: 24 | 2026 (YTD): 19

Equipment Needs and Rationale

Transport Cots

Lab Grade Toxicology Fridge

Morgue Cooler

Wider Transport Cots

Safely accommodate larger bodies- increasingly common in overdose deaths

Reduce risk of staff injury during transport and loading

Improve dignity and professionalism in handling

Essential for modern bariatric needs in death investigations



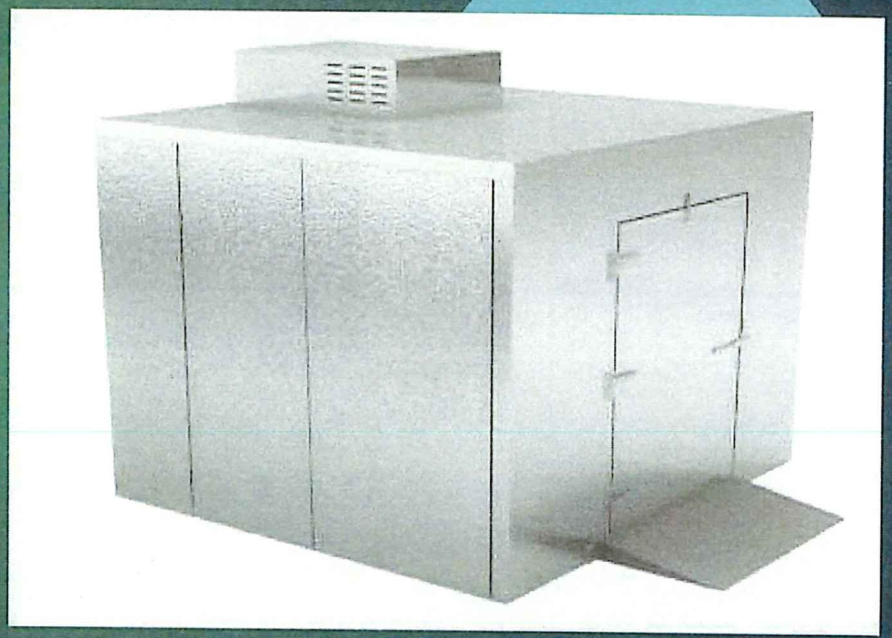
Lab Grade Toxicology Fridge

- Dedicated refrigeration for blood and tissue samples
- Maintains proper temperature for accurate toxicology testing
- Supports chain of custody requirements, security, and privacy



Morgue Cooler

- Additional capacity for increased caseloads
- Maintains body integrity during investigation, release, and maintains best practice in secure chain of custody
- Supports dignified operations



Alignment with Opioid Abatement Funds

- Directly supports allowable uses under national opioid settlement guidelines
- Enhances toxicology capacity and death investigation infrastructure
- Improves surveillance and response to overdose trends
- Maintains dignity for the deceased and support for the grieving families through timely, professional operations
- Precedent: Other counties have successfully used these funds for similar ME equipment
- Responsible, targeted use of Oneida County's abatement dollars

Budget and Projected Impact

Wider transport cots, working accessories and cot bed ramps,

Lab Grade Toxicology Fridge,

Morgue Cooler and refrigeration unit with install, roller racks, body boards, rolling cart, scissors lift,

Garage security and usage needs including security camera, necessary electrical, and secure garage door

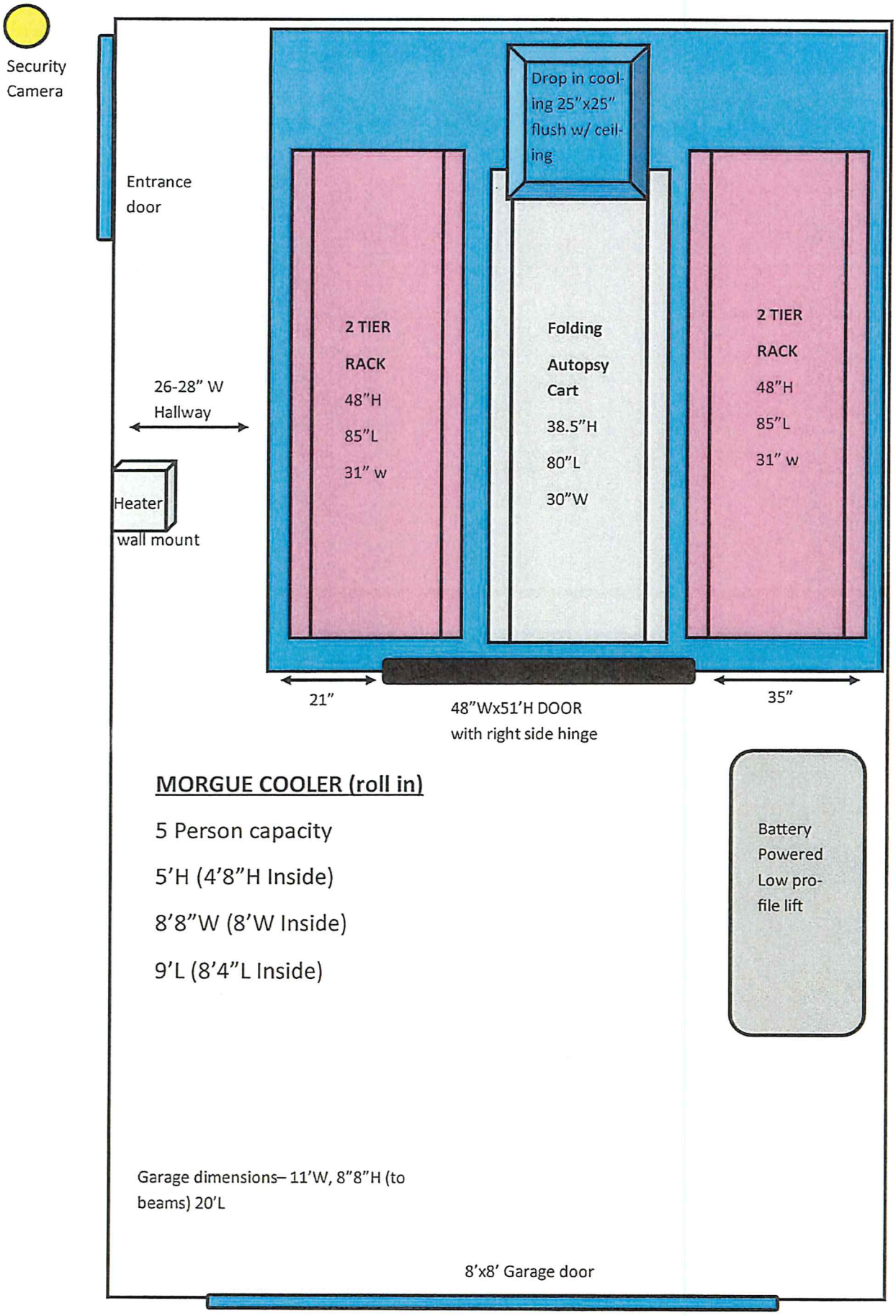
Total Estimated Costs with added contingency= $85,000

Opioid Request – ME Office

Cost Estimate Breakdown

Item	Amount
Morgue Cooler	$20,000
Lift	$6,500
Ferno Cots (2)	$11,000
Cot Bed Ramps (4)	$5,000
Cot Covers (2)	$550
Stainless Steel Rack	$3,000
Roller Rack	$2,000
Body Boards (4)	$800
Folding Body Table	$2,000
Lab Cooler	$1,700
Garage Door	$5,000
Electric / Relocate Heater	$6,000
Camera / Licensing and Install	$3,000
Shipping	$4,300
Subtotal	**$70,850**
Contingency	**$14,150**
Total	**$85,000**

Prepared: August 7, 2026


Security Camera
Entrance door
Drop in cooling 25"x25" flush w/ ceiling
2 TIER RACK 48"H 85"L 31" w
Folding Autopsy Cart 38.5"H 80"L 30"W
2 TIER RACK 48"H 85"L 31" w
26-28" W Hallway
Heater wall mount
21"
48"Wx51'H DOOR with right side hinge
35"
MORGUE COOLER (roll in)
5 Person capacity
5'H (4'8"H Inside)
8'8"W (8'W Inside)
9'L (8'4"L Inside)
Battery Powered Low profile lift
Garage dimensions– 11'W, 8"8"H (to beams) 20'L
8'x8' Garage door

Jillian M. Pfeifer
District Attorney

Ben Meyer
Assistant District Attorney

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ONEIDA COUNTY
Courthouse Building
P.O. Box 400
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-0400
Telephone (715) 369-6133
Fax (715) 369-6215

Bekah Meier
Victim/Witness Coordinator
Anna M. Zwaard
Lisa D. Gonzalez
Janis Clark
Administrative Support

August 04, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am aware that the Oneida County Medical Examiner, Cambrya Hurlburt, is making a budget request to install a morgue in the Oneida County Courthouse. I am writing to inform the County Board and sub-committees that I am in support of Ms. Hurlburt's request.

First, a morgue in the Oneida County Courthouse is a substantially more reliable way of ensuring chain of custody. In all criminal cases, maintaining chain of custody is a necessary component of a criminal prosecution. Chain of custody ensures that the evidence in the case has not been altered, exchanged or tampered with. To maintain a complete chain of custody, all 'links' (persons who have had access to or have handled the evidence) in the chain must be properly identified and documented. In instances of a decedent being secured at a morgue, proper documentation of chain of custody would involve secure and limited access to the morgue, with access only permitted by authorized employees of the medical examiner's office, and documentation of any and all individuals who have access to morgue while a decedent is secured at the morgue until being transported for autopsy. The State's failure to establish proper chain of custody at trial can be fatal to the prosecution and result in a not guilty verdict. For this very reason, having a morgue at the Oneida County Courthouse is preferred by my office. Currently, decedents are being kept at the local hospitals and this is incredibly problematic in maintaining chain of custody because both the Oneida county Medical Examiner, and her staff, and hospital employees have access. Hospital employees having access to the morgue raises significant concerns in terms of who and when said employees access the morgue resulting the State's inability to establish a complete chain of custody during the prosecution of the case.

Second, the number of suspicious deaths have increased over the years which also means the number of autopsies performed has also increased. As a practical matter, allowing Ms. Hurlburt to have the ability to secure decedents at the courthouse, where her office is located, in a central part of the county, appears to be more efficient than Ms. Hurlburt traveling to one of the three hospitals in Oneida county to pick up the decedent before then transporting the decedent to autopsy.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

/s/ Jillian Pfeifer
Jillian M. Pfeifer
State Bar No. 1097483
District Attorney
Oneida County, WI

ONEIDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Grady M. Hartman
Sheriff

Terri M. Hook
Chief Deputy

August 4, 2026

Cambrya Hurlburt
Oneida County Medical Examiner's Office
1 South Oneida
Rhinelander, WI 54501

Hello Cambrya,

I am aware that you are seeking approval from the Public Safety Committee and ultimately the Oneida County Board of Supervisors to establish a secure morgue space. I am writing in support of this endeavor. Fortunately, we do not have many homicides in Oneida County, but when we do, having a secure place to store the bodies until they are taken for autopsy is very important. In the past, we have used the hospital's space. This is not the best situation as we, the Sheriff's Office or the Medical Examiner's Office, cannot control the chain of custody or who has access to the morgue space. The best situation for us would be that the body be stored in a place where our two offices can control who has access to the body. For this reason, I believe the creation of a secure morgue space would be beneficial to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Oneida County. I am aware that your office provides services for Forest County and Vilas County as well. This secure morgue space will be beneficial to their county law enforcement as well. If there is anything further you need, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Grady Hartman

2000 East Winnebago Street
Rhinelander, WI. 54501

Telephone: (715) 361-5100

FOREST COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

100 South Park Avenue
Crandon, WI 54520

JEFFERY MARVIN
SHERIFF

Phone: (715) 478-3331
Fax: (715) 478-3535

ALEX WALRATH
CHIEF DEPUTY

To Whom It May Concern:

Several Forest County Sheriff's Office Staff have had recent conversation with Chief Medical Examiner Cambrya Hurlburt regarding a possible designated morgue specifically for the use and custody of the Oneida County Medical Examiners Office.

We believe this designated site would strengthen chain of custody, efficiency, security, and provide an isolated and safe area for her and staff to perform essential exams, photography and toxicology testing; ensuring reliable and credible results for use in Forest County Investigations and Prosecutions.

Although we may not be able to support additional funding for such a site; we do support a designated site for utilization of the duties of the Oneida County Medical Examiner's Office.

Respectfully,

Jeffery A Marvin

Sheriff Jeffery Marvin
Forest County Sheriff
100 South Park Ave.
Crandon, WI 54520