

Complied from Adams County Board minutes and financial reports

May 17, 2011

Indigent Funerals/Funding – The Coroner, Mr. James Keller, discussed with the committee a bill proposed by the Illinois General Assembly which would abolish reimbursement and payment of indigent funerals. Between March, 2010 and April, 2011 the Illinois Department of Health Services handled 77 indigent funeral claims. Without this funding, counties would bear the burden of these expenses.

October 11, 2011

County Assisted Burials – Mr. Keller, Coroner's Office, reported to the committee his proposal for an office policy change for county assisted burials (See Attachments D-1 thru D-4). The policy change is a result of the reduction of payments to local government bodies by the State of Illinois. Mr. Keller's policy will allocate \$1,000.00 to a local funeral home for a graveside service and immediate burial or cremation of a decedent. The proposed expense budget for the county to implement the new policy is \$20,000.00. (Policy not available in archives) Policy approved

December 13, 2011

Department Reports/Coroner & EMA – Mr. Keller, Coroner, reported to the committee the progress in implementing the county policy on indigent burial services within the county.

May 13, 2014

Mr. Keller, Coroner, reported to the committee that possible changes in the state's plans for paying indigent burial expenses were pending. The changes have the potential for additional costs to the county.

Sept 9, 2014

Department Report/Coroner – Mr. Keller, Coroner, reported to the committee that his autopsy/burial budgeted is depleted. He noted that approximately one-half of the counties in the state are out of budgeted funds for autopsies and burials. Adams County used \$11,000.00 during the current month of August. August saw a high number of state mandated autopsies due to four fires deaths, several deaths from traffic accidents, several drug related deaths and a child death. In addition, approximately 50 families have inquired about assistance for burial expenses. Mr. Keller was successful in finding funds for many of those families.

December 13, 2016

The Coroner, Jim Keller, reported that the indigent burials are up largely due to Medicaid no longer paying any burial benefits.

February 14, 2017

Adams County Coroner, Jim Keller, stated we are only 2 months into the new budget year and we have already had nearly as many indigent burials as in all of 2016. Mr. Keller does not release the remains (ashes) to the family unless the county is reimbursed our cost of \$1,000.

There is one family that is very upset about this practice. They don't want to pay, but insist Jim release the remains to them.

June 13, 2017

The coroner, Jim Keller, reported that they are having better success with reimbursement on indigent cremations. There have been 75 inquiries year to date to take care of county burials.

August 15, 2017

The Coroner, Jim Keller, reported that even though the department has been busy, they are in better standing now than they were this time last year due to the budget increase. The department is in need of a gravesite to bury about 15 containers of ashes that have been accumulating over the past ten years.

November 14, 2017

Jim Keller, the County Coroner, reported to the committee that they continue to have success with reimbursement for county cremations and burials. The number of postmortem exams remains high.

Budget items (year ends November 30) I have no idea if these items include the total costs of indigent burial. For example, does this include cremation costs? These are the only line items that I could see.

	Reimbursement Indigent Burial	Expense/Indigent Burials
2016	\$2400	\$8664
2017	\$10,104.90	\$8523