



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 23-00664

Agenda Date: 12/12/2023

Agenda Item Name:

Cremation Only Policy

Presenter:

Claudia Tuck 352-231-0058

Description:

Alachua County will only provide cremation services for those who die in Alachua County without means for disposition.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Cremation Only Policy

Prior Board Motions:

NA

Fiscal Note:

Burial cost with grave prepared: \$1,472

Cremation cost: \$675 child cremation is \$550.

The cost difference is \$797 per adult and \$922 per child more for burial.

Fiscal Year 2024 Adopted budget 001.29.2960.564 –\$100,000

Strategic Guide:

Mandated Service

Background:

Pursuant to Florida State Statute 406.50, the County is mandated to provide burial or cremation services to decedents who have expired in Alachua County and who are unclaimed or who must be buried or cremated at public expense. In 2010, the County implemented a Cremation Preference Policy to reduce the cost of those who are buried at public expense. The Department of Community Support Services is recommending that BoCC now adopt a Cremation Only Policy which will require all those who die in Alachua County be cremated. Exclusions to this policy will be limited by federal and state regulations, Medical Examiners Office direction and decedents who are unknown. Recently, the City of Gainesville Cemetary Coordinator notified the County that the space leased to the County for burials would soon be filled and no longer able to accommodate burials. As a result of this finding, the County began discussions with the Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) regarding leasing additional space within the Cemetery. APD is considering the addition of ½ acre to the County lease, but must notify other state entities to assess their potential need for that space.

The Department of Community Support Services believes that the public interest is served through cremation with exclusions set aside for veterans, unknown persons and the Medical Examiners direction per the Florida Statutes.

In 2005, the County contracts with a single vendor to provide standardized funeral services. Per the current contract, the County pays \$1250 for adult and child burials and \$675 for adult cremations. Children cremations are at \$550. The County makes price allowances for oversized decedents

The County leases land from the State of Florida at Evergreen Cemetery which is managed by the City of Gainesville for internment. Per contract, the County directly pays the City \$222 to prepare a grave for burial at Evergreen.