

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report

Oklahoma Funeral Board

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

OAC 235:10-1-1. Purpose

The mission of the Oklahoma Funeral Board is to act in the public interest, for the public protection and advancement of the funeral profession within the powers vested in the Board by the State of Oklahoma.

[**Source:** Amended at 17 Ok Reg 1095, eff 5-11-00; Amended at 22 Ok Reg 1918, eff 6-25-05]

The Agency's mission statement is found in the rules. The mission statement was crafted by the Board and approved and amended according to the rule making processes in place at the time of adoption and amendment.

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Mark Riley

Executive Director

4545 North Lincoln Boulevard, Ste 175,

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

405-522-1790

mriley@okfuneral.com

GOVERNANCE:

The Funeral Board is an Agency in the Executive Branch with seven Governor Appointed members five of which are licensed funeral directors and two of which are non licensed members. The Board members select the agency head.

Funeral Directors:

J. Cooper, Tecumseh

Richard Dugger, Perry

Mike Phenix, Ponca City

Tom Pickard, Stratford

Mark Temple, Oklahoma City,

Public Members,

Cynthia Longanacre, Chickasha

Andrew Walding, Oklahoma City

There are no subgroups of the Board. There is a committee of non Board Member licensed funeral directors appointed by Board members that make monthly recommendations to the Board to better serve the industry.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Yes there is a policy. It was adopted at the June 2012 strategic planning meeting and we are in the initial year of institution of the policy.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

Since July 1, 2010, the agency has endeavored to allow for license renewals online in accordance with the provisions of 62 O.S. § 34.24.1. While the implementation is not yet completed, the to date cost of doing so has been a cost burden of nearly 2% of the agency's annual budget and no savings have been realized in reduced man hours or otherwise. The agency has worked hard to trim costs and eliminate waste by temporarily restricting unannounced inspections on funeral homes. However due to the concerns of the industry, the inspections have been recently reinstated. After one of three full time employees retired, the agency did not replace the position. The agency has also held off on making warranted full time hires and upgrades to facilities and equipment to remain fiscally sound until a fee increase is made possible through the rule making process. Withholding warranted infrastructure updates and personnel transactions to remain fiscally sound should not be the model other agencies use to contain costs, but may be an unfortunate necessity in the existing economic environment.

CORE MISSION:

We are not required to, but do serve as an information source for the citizens of Oklahoma regarding cemetery issues and questions. No other entities provide the services of our agency. We are able to perform the core services of our mission. Non-core services do not hinder our mission.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Informational services to licensees may also be provided by the state Funeral Director's Association, however it is important to have the Agency's perspective on matters which is enforcement of laws rather than simply the practice thereof. We are not aware of any other services provided by the Funeral Board being performed by the private sector in Oklahoma. The only state where the services of the Funeral Board are provided in the private sector is Colorado that does not have a funeral services licensing Board, but a voluntary certification offered through the Colorado Funeral Directors Association. The Oklahoma Funeral Board has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporations with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency.