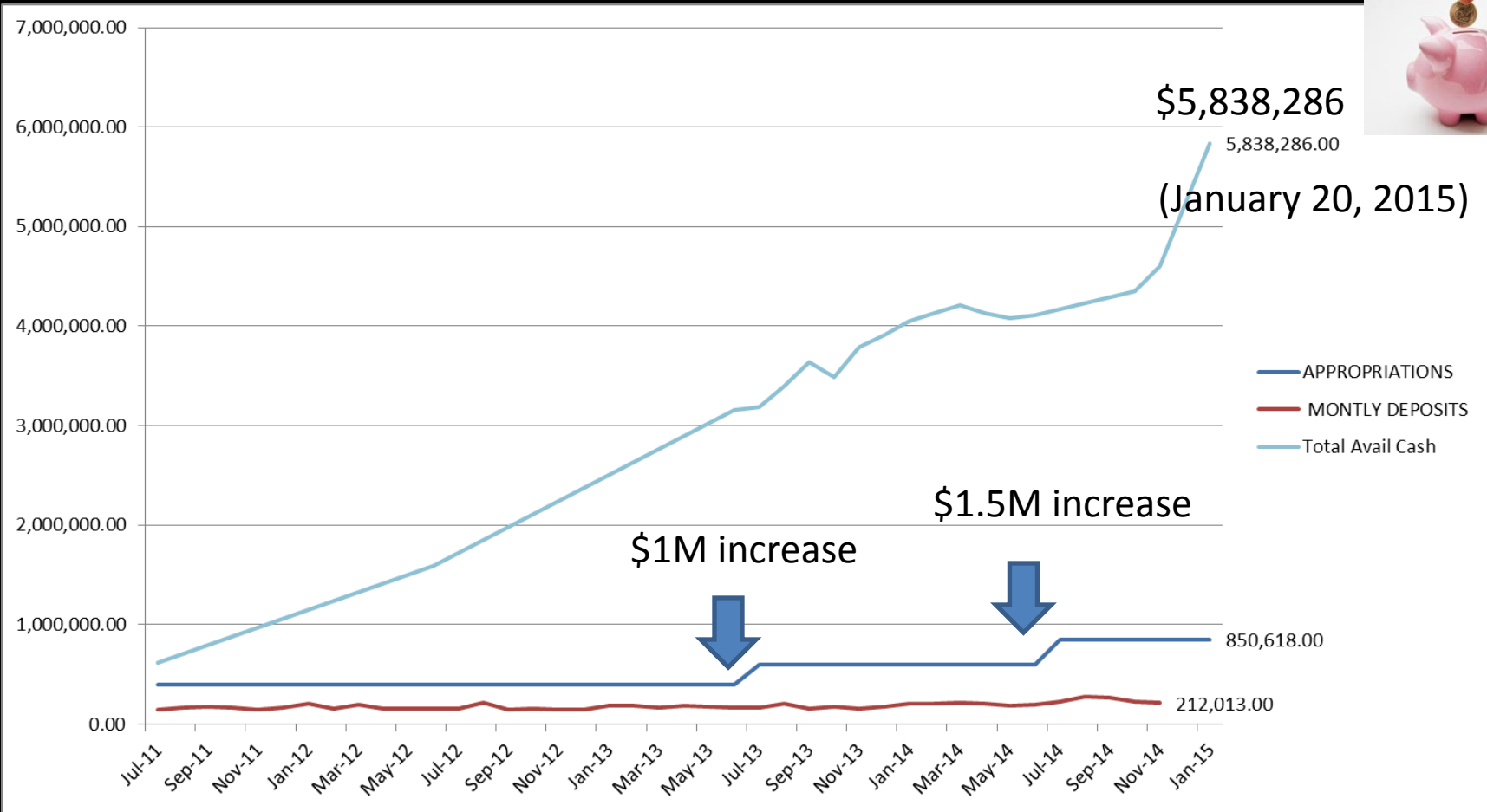


# State of Oklahoma, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner 2015 Budget and Performance Hearings



# History of State Appropriations and Receipts from Fees (2011-2014/15)



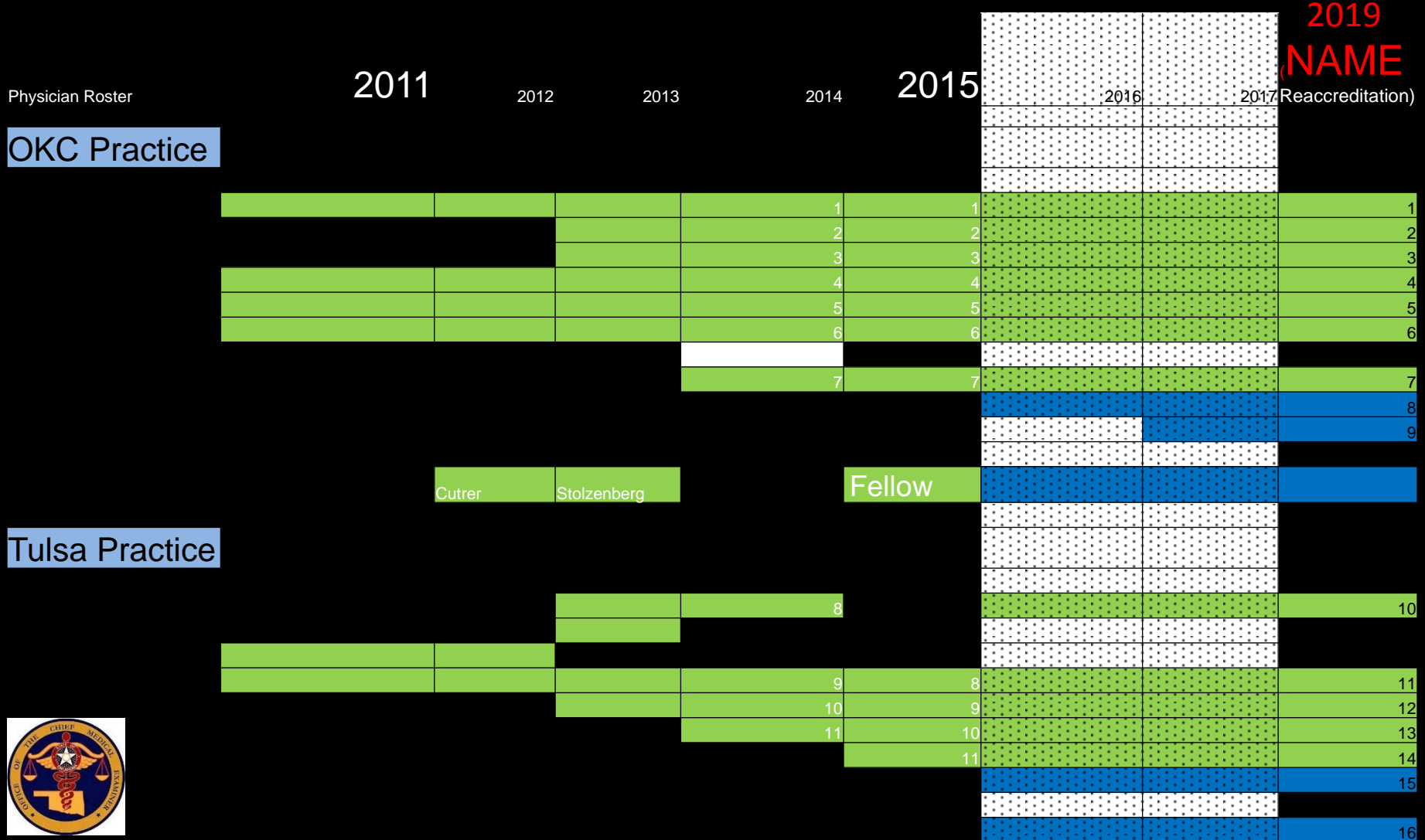
# What have we done with the money?

(Exactly what we said we were going to do!)

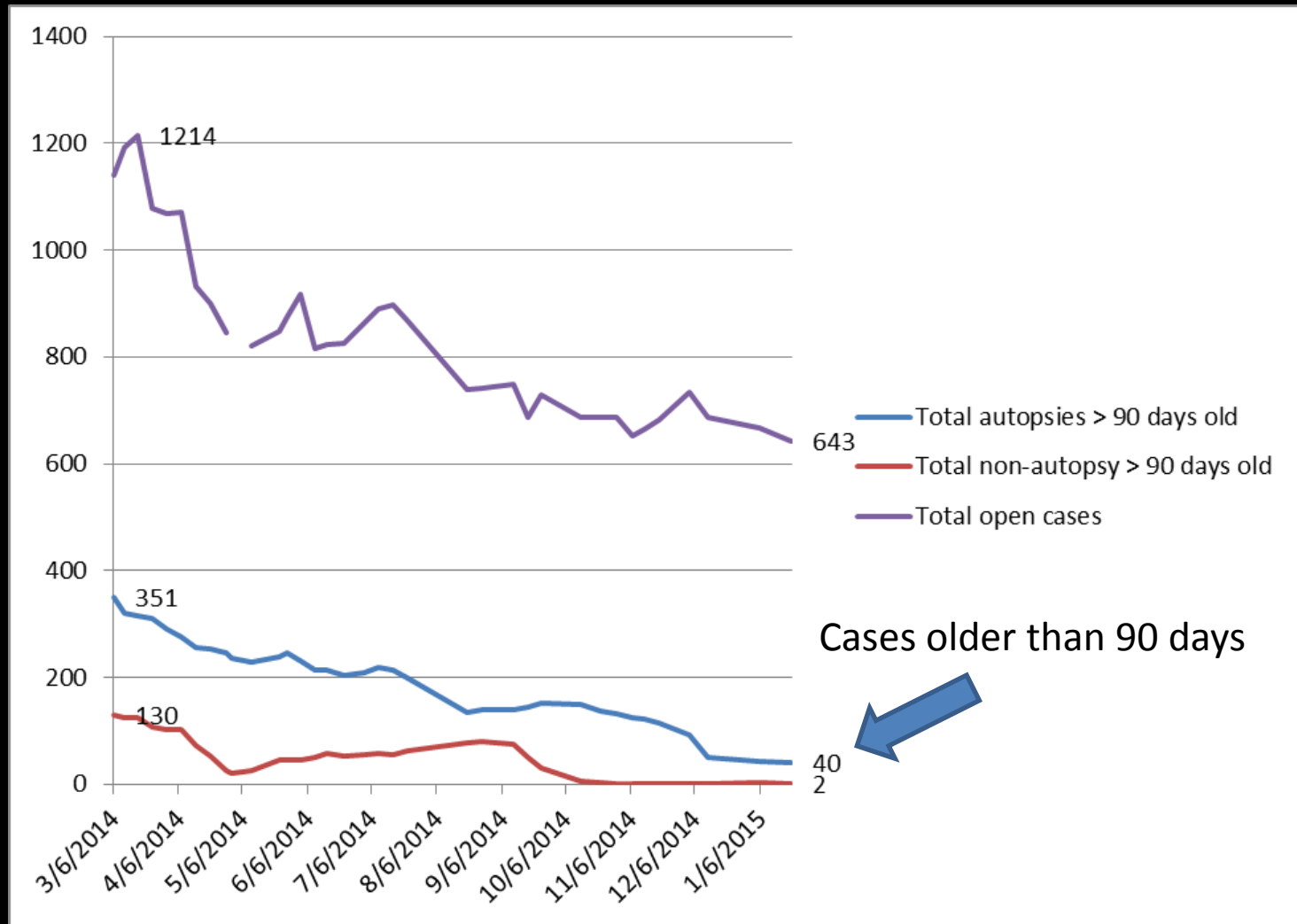
- Hired forensic pathologists
- Hired death scene investigators
- Hired an additional forensic anthropologist
- In process of recruiting an additional forensic chemist/toxicologist
- Updated equipment
- Saved money to defer cost of the new OKC building and make bond payments



We have successfully recruited and retained 6 additional forensic pathologists. We need 5 more to achieve reaccreditation without deficiency (by 2018-19).



We have virtually eliminated our backlog of old cases and are presently at industry standard (90 day or less TAT). 3 years ago we were at about 9 months TAT!



# Major Improvements in Death Scene Investigation

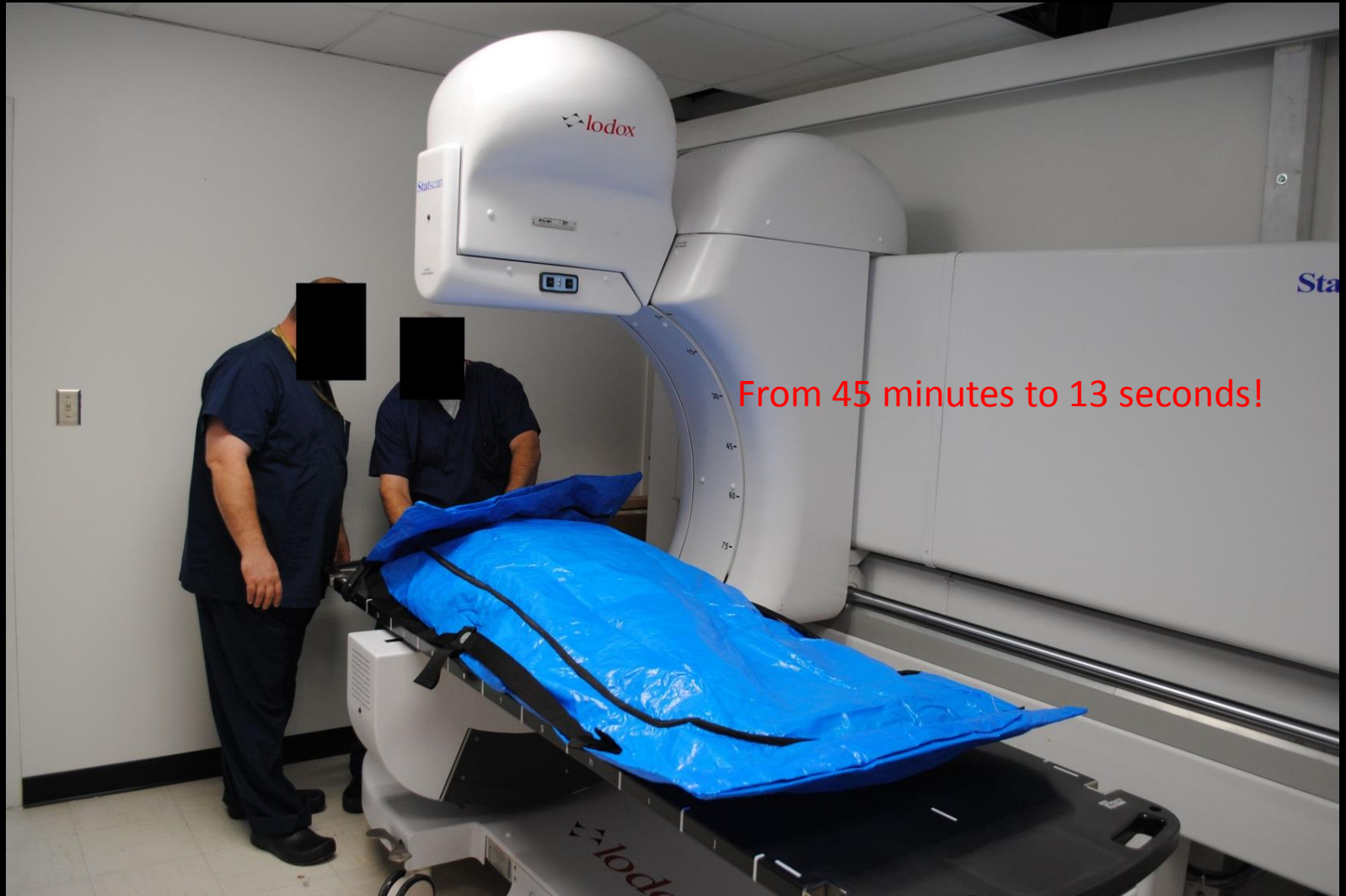
- Statewide gaps in coverage have been closed by adding three additional investigators. We now have investigators available to respond to any corner of this State.
- Oklahoma now has the highest number of American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigation ABMDI-certified, full time working investigators in the United States.
- Two of our investigators serve as board members of the ABMDI.
- All investigators are equipped with the tools they need to conduct death scene investigations for the OCME.



# Major Improvements in Modern Forensic Technology



# Major Improvements in Efficiency





# Major Improvements in Efficiency

- Developed an electronic permit processing system that obviates approximately 26,000 faxes and millions of computer keystrokes per year, saving at least one FTE.
- Adopted a more efficient and time-effective schedule and process for body delivery and release, saving 3 FTEs.



# Overview

- We have improved our service to the Tulsa and Oklahoma City metropolitan areas and especially rural Oklahoma.
- There is much more to do to regain NAME accreditation.
  - Updated buildings and lab space.
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
- NAME reaccreditation will not occur without a new OKC structure **AND** remodeling and enlargement of the Tulsa practice. **BOTH** must occur before re-inspection.



# The Facts of Life

(...if we want to regain our NAME accreditation)

- Remodeling the Tulsa (Eastern Division) practice to accreditation specs will cost approximately \$9M.
- A new building for the OKC practice, no matter where it's built, will cost approximately \$43M.
- We need 17 forensic pathologists by 2018. These specialists are increasingly high in demand and are commanding higher salaries. Oklahoma must remain competitive with our neighbors.
- The annual budget at the time of NAME reaccreditation (2019) will be approximately \$15M/year for personnel and operation expenses. That translates to a need of approximately \$12.5/year in appropriations by that time.
- External grant money has never been an effective source of Statewide ME office funding in any state at any time in the history of ME offices.











