

FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER (Medical Examiner/Forensic Laboratory)

**FY09 Budget
Information Session
BIS Session 5/8/08**

Department Direction/Highlights

- Approaching completion of the 8th year of service
- Medical Examiner cases on steady rise
- Forensic Laboratory ASCLD-LAB reaccreditation of all sections
- Increased grant funding
- 48 employees

FY 09 PINELLAS BUDGET

Objectives/Goals

- Continue high level of service to the District
- ASCLD-LAB accreditation of all sections of the Forensic Laboratory including Toxicology and DNA sections
- Continue to explore unique funding sources for the benefit of the taxpayers:

REDUCTION GOAL FOR FY09: -\$334,350

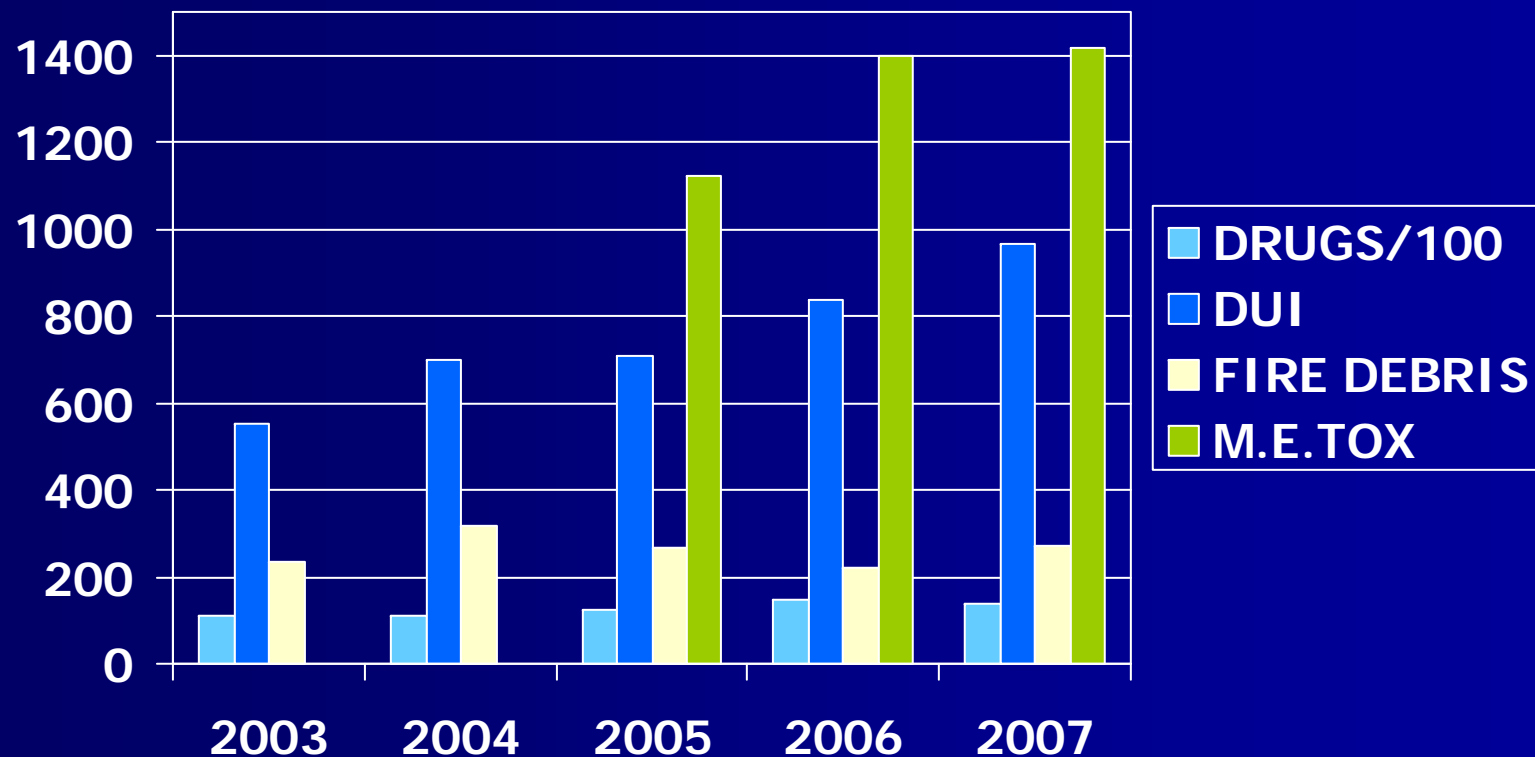
OMB CALC. REDUCTION: -\$358,300

My Estimate Reduction: -\$437,580

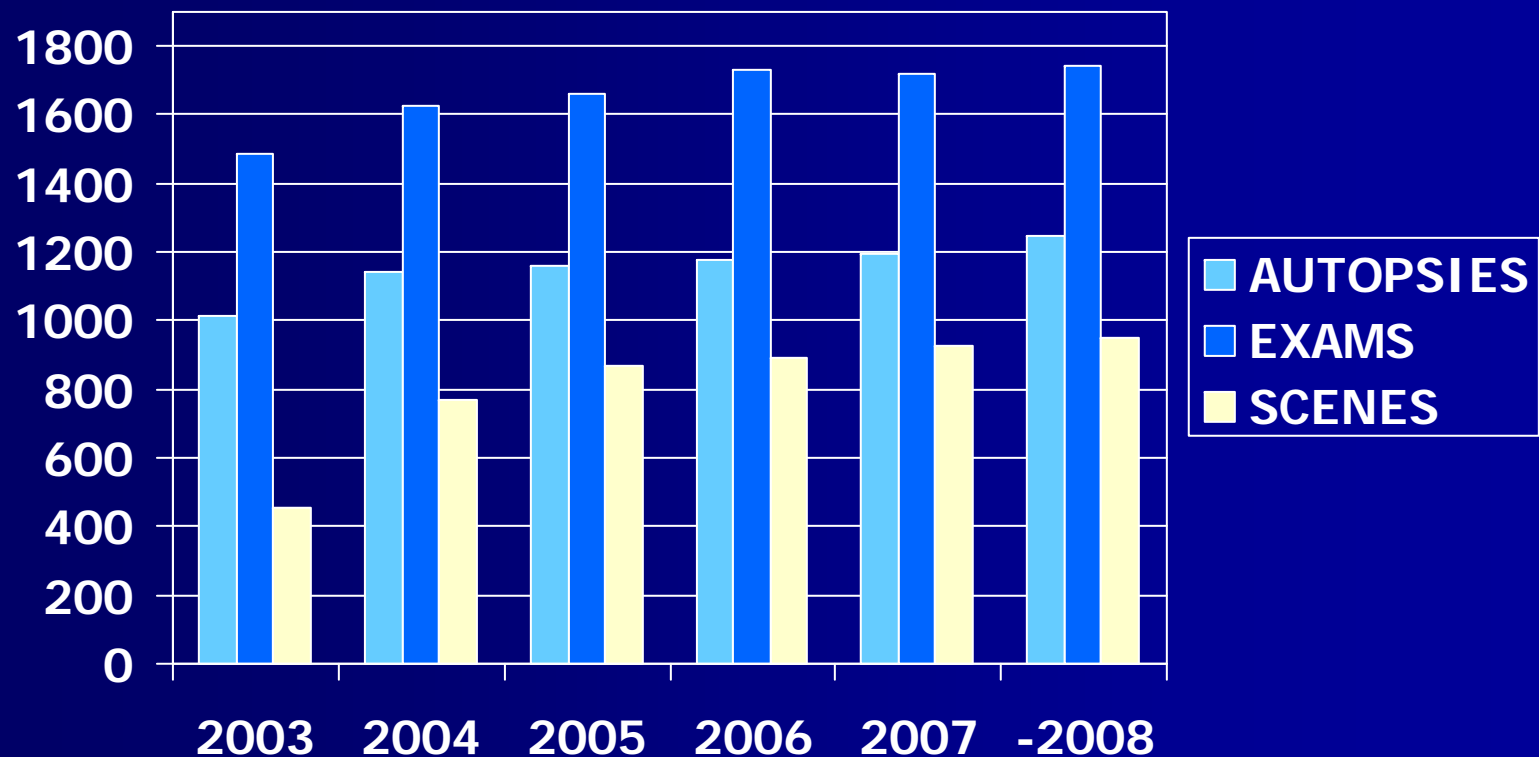
HOW WAS FY09 BUDGET GOAL ACHIEVED?

- NO RAISES: SALARIES OF FSC EMPLOYEES WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR FY09
 - Minimize recurring costs with FY10 in mind
- REDUCTION IN ACCOUNTING, LEGAL, TRAVEL, ETC
- POSITION ELIMINATION (2): 1 FORENSIC CHEMIST, 1 TOXICOLOGIST
- FREEZE HIRING OF ASSOCIATE MEDICAL EXAMINER AND DNA TECHNICIAN
- FY08 ABI ACCELERATED DNA VALIDATION
- BYRNE GRANT FUNDING OF DNA SECTION

FORENSIC LAB HISTORICAL WORKLOAD



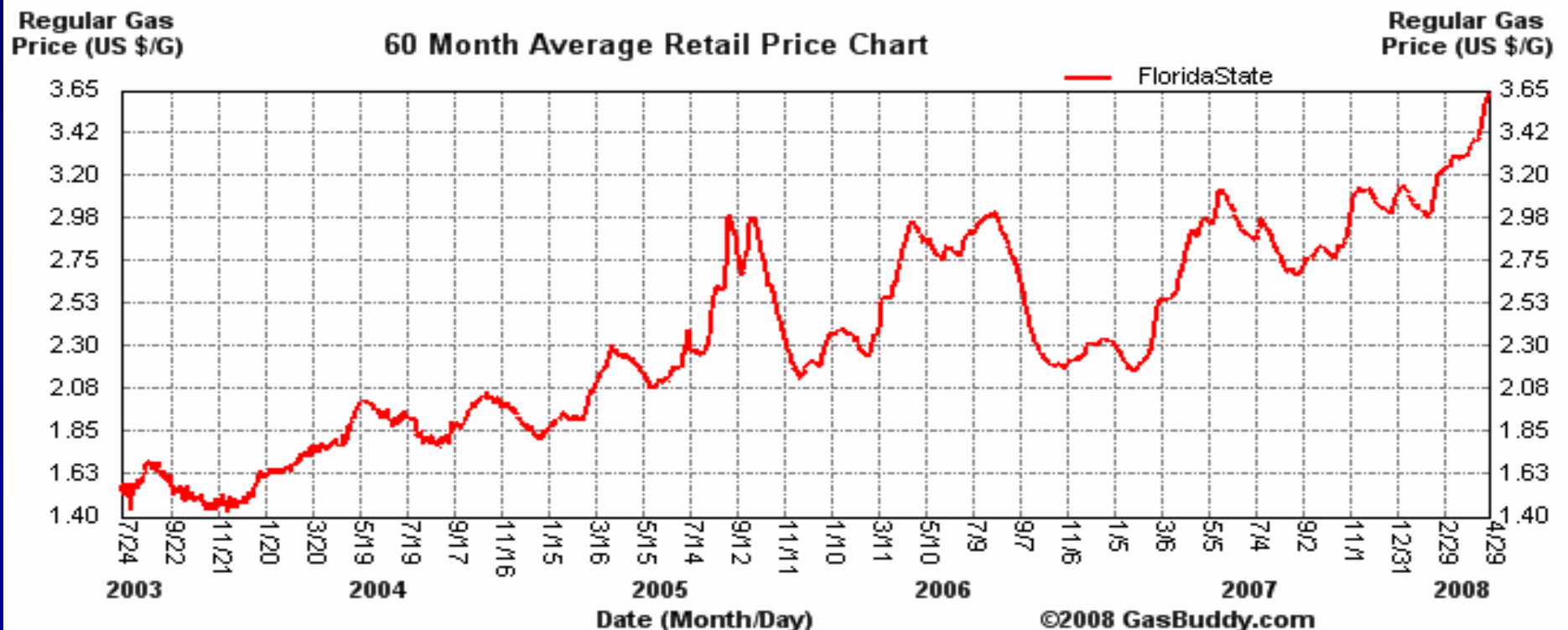
MEDICAL EXAMINER HISTORICAL WORKLOAD



EXAMPLES OF MEDICAL EXAMINER COSTS

1750 Removals per year

950 scene investigations per year



Accomplishments

- Outside Revenue for FY08
 - District 5 Medical Examiner Toxicology: \$70-80,000 directly to Pinellas
 - Toxicology income to office paying for accelerated validation of DNA section of Laboratory
- Awarded Grant of \$695,600 for FY09
- Increase of State Trust Fund of \$30,000 for FY08 and \$70,000 for FY09 due to DNA section
- DNA section will be operational in FY09
 - 1 year ahead of schedule
 - No impact to taxpayers in FY09
 - Pinellas County Sheriff purchased \$600,000 of DNA equipment using forfeiture funds

DNA SECTION VALIDATION

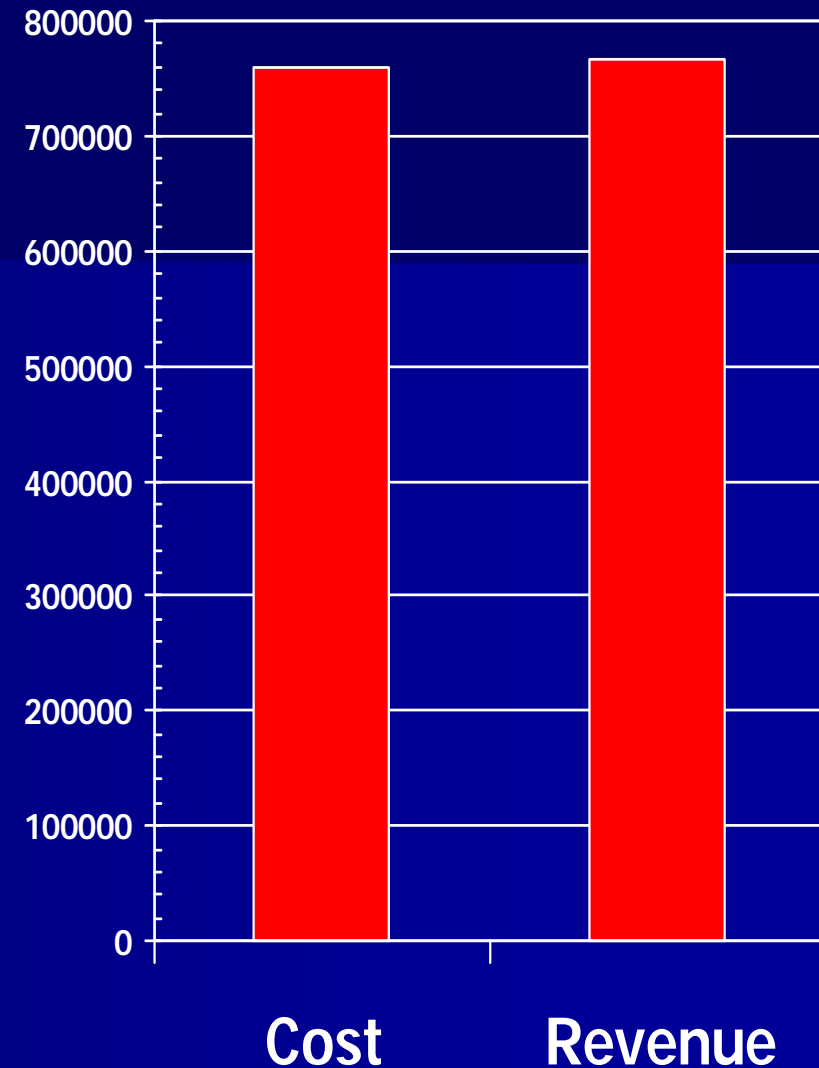
- ABI validating DNA section
- Will accelerate operational status
- Train employees
- Massive cost savings
- No general fund impact



DNA SECTION

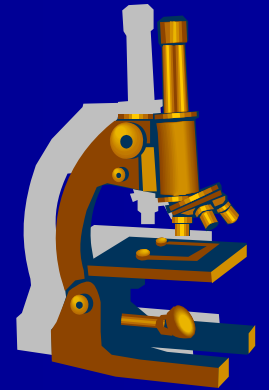
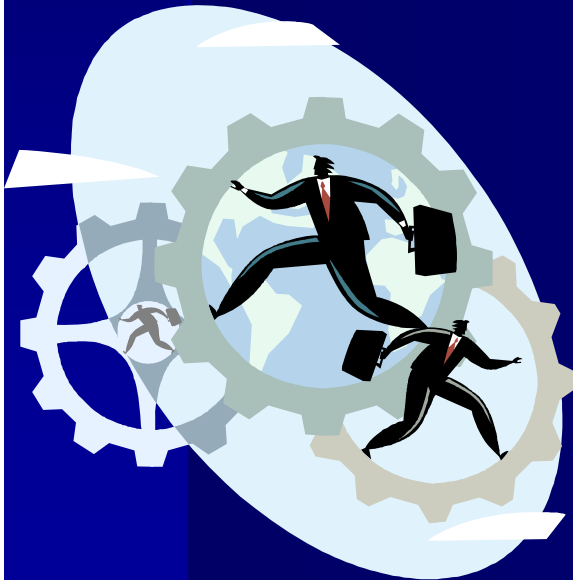
- TWO COMMITMENTS:
 - 1) FY09 DNA cost \$750,000
 - 2) DNA section on line in FY10
- UPDATE:
 - 1) FY09 DNA cost \$0
 - \$32,830 if consider 95% of grants
 - 2) DNA section on line FY09

**POSITIVE EFFECT OF
OUR FIRST FEDERAL DNA
GRANT**





BUDGET OVERVIEW



FY07

PASCO
COUNTY
MEDICAL
EXAMINER
SERVICES ONLY

MISC
REVENUE

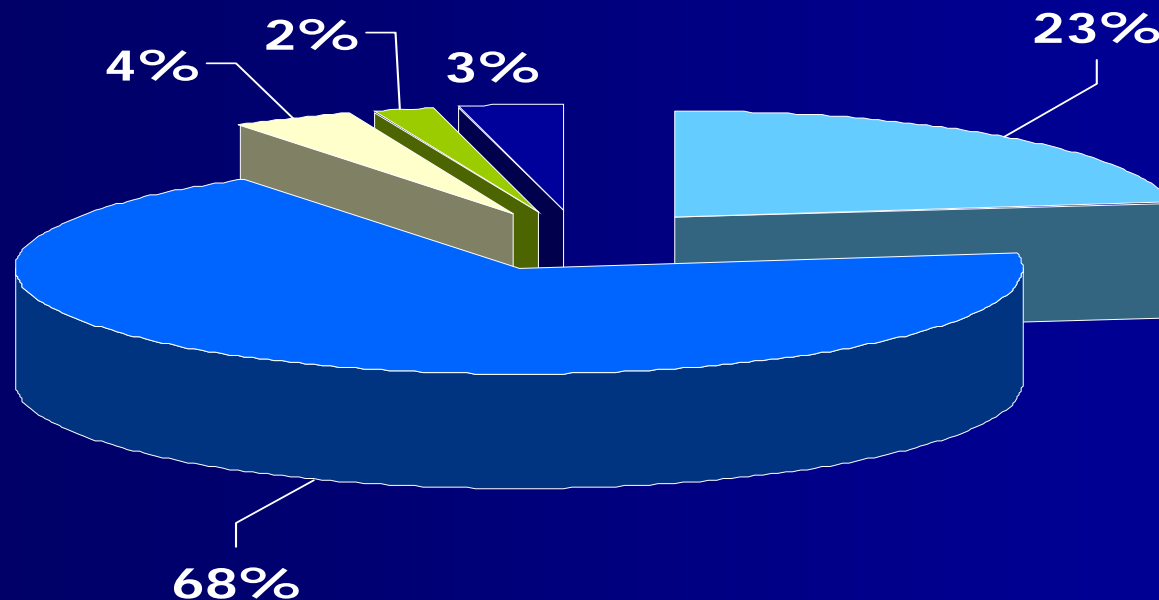
DUI TESTING
FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT

FORENSIC
SCIENCE
CENTER COSTS

PINELLAS
COUNTY
GENERAL
FUND

GRANTS

Budget Summary Chart FY 07



■ Pasco
■ Pinellas
■ DUI
■ MISC INC
■ Grants

FY08

PASCO
COUNTY
MEDICAL
EXAMINER
SERVICES ONLY

MISC
REVENUE

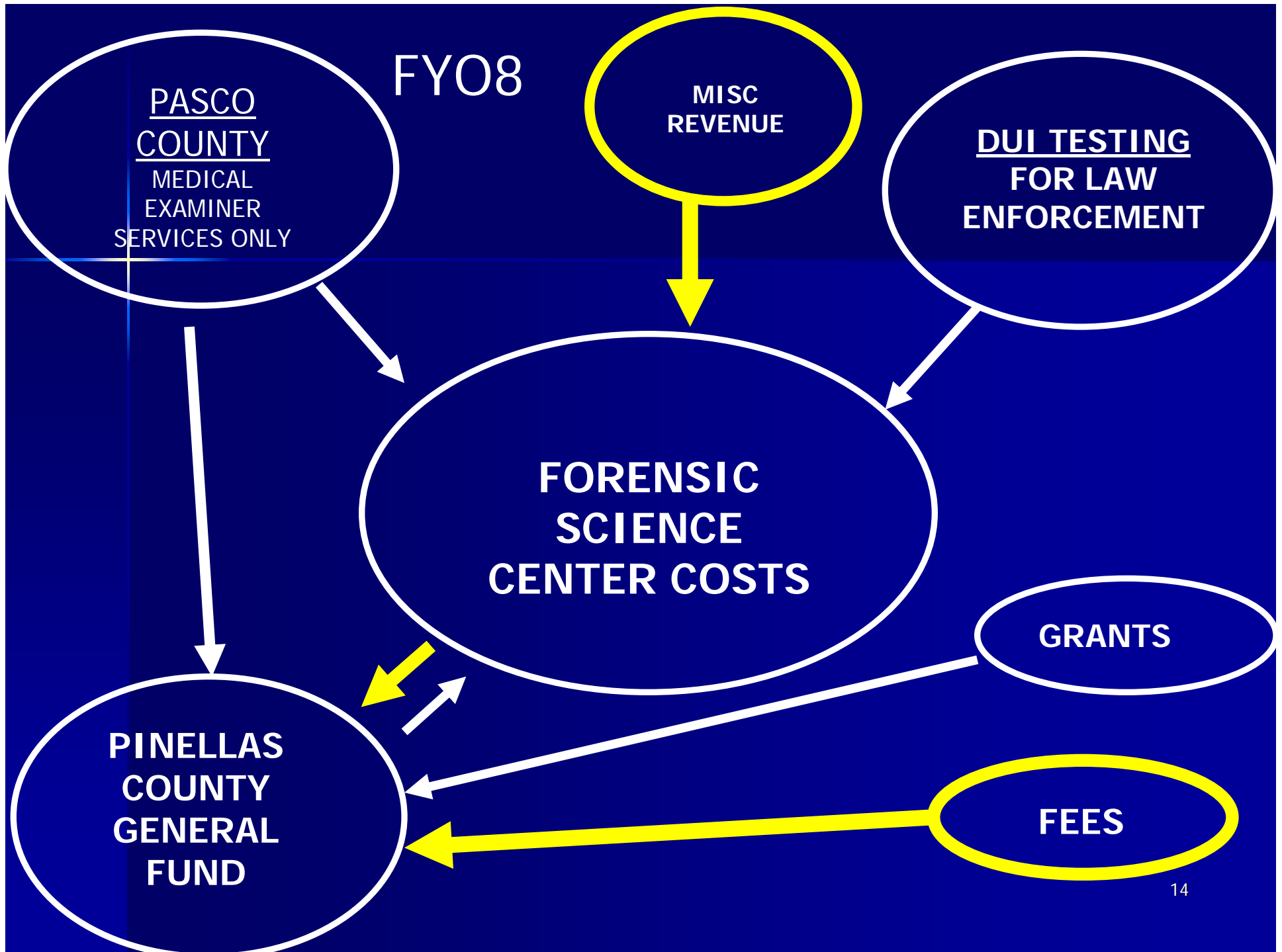
DUI TESTING
FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT

FORENSIC
SCIENCE
CENTER COSTS

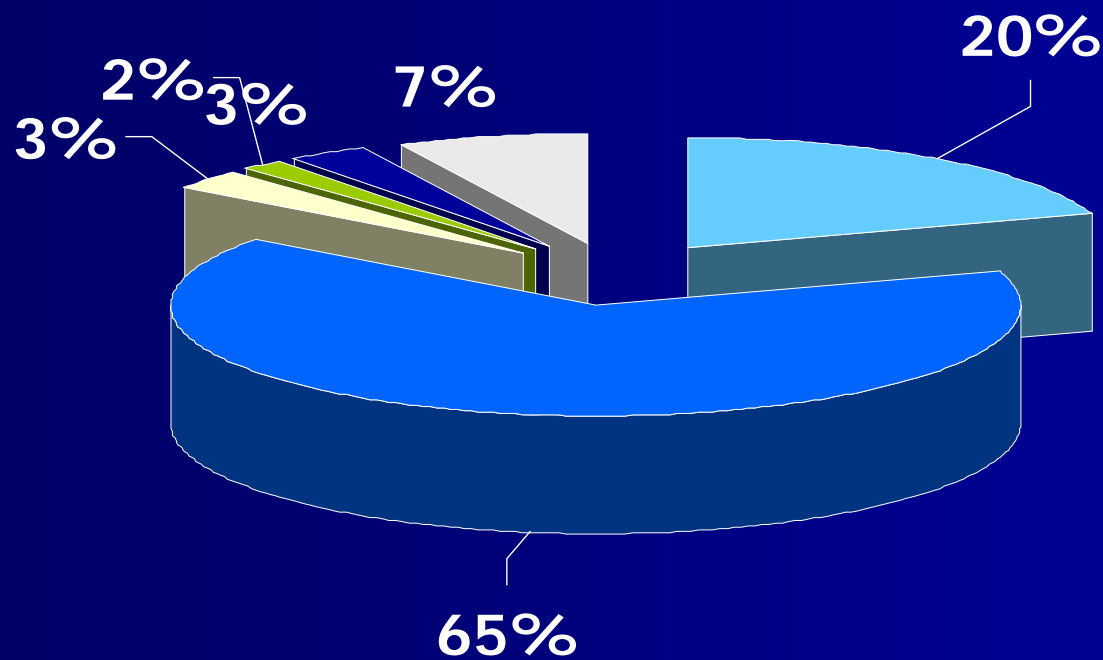
GRANTS

PINELLAS
COUNTY
GENERAL
FUND

FEES



Budget Summary Chart FY08



FY09

PASCO
COUNTY
MEDICAL
EXAMINER
SERVICES ONLY

MISC
REVENUE

DUI TESTING
FOR LAW
ENFORCEMENT

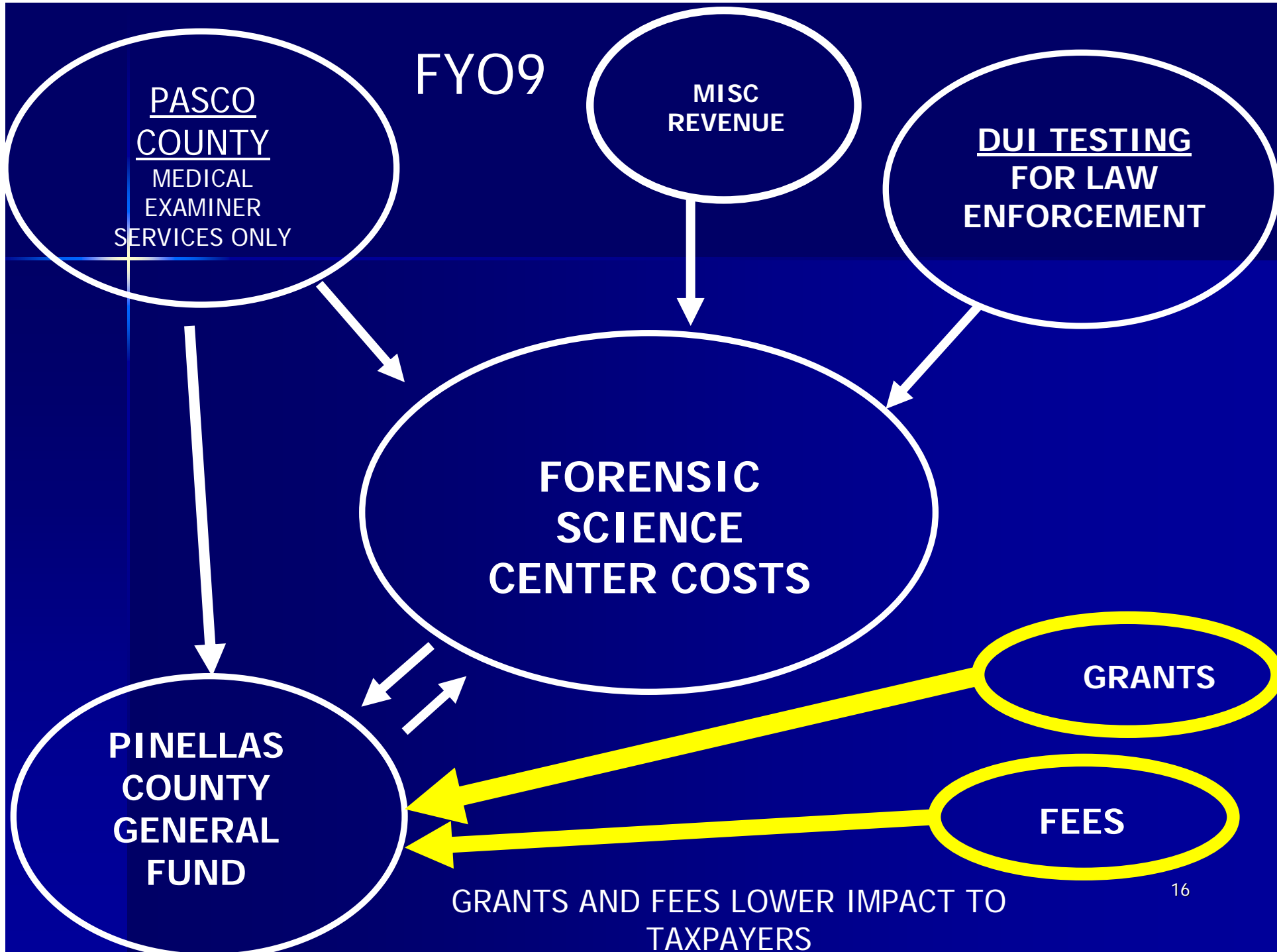
FORENSIC
SCIENCE
CENTER COSTS

PINELLAS
COUNTY
GENERAL
FUND

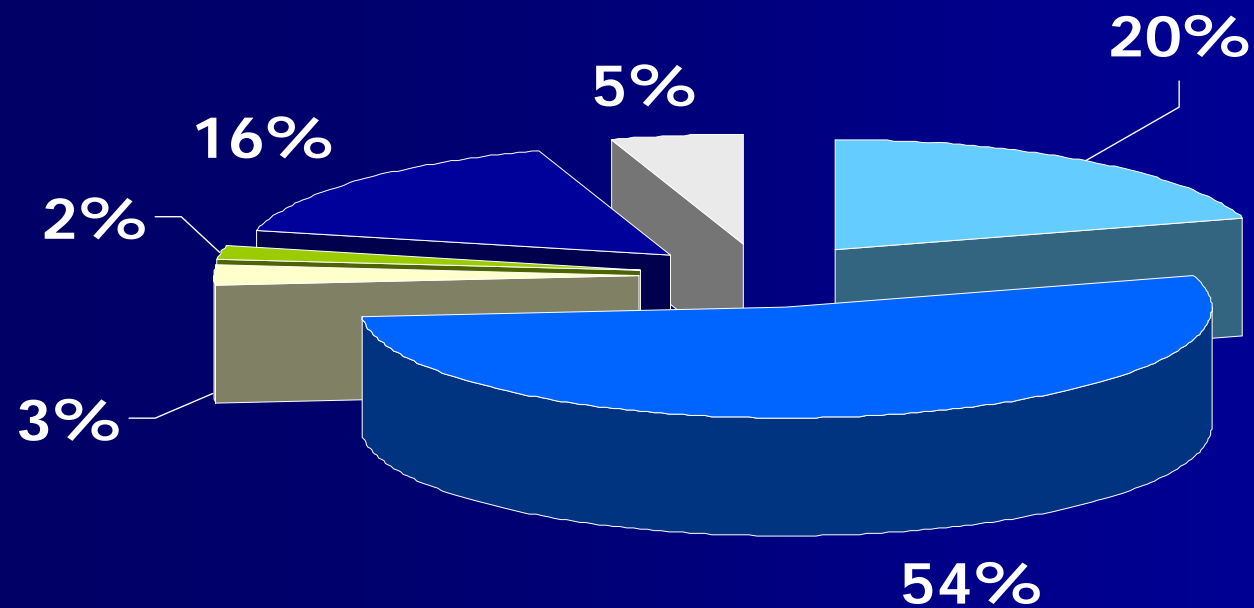
GRANTS

FEES

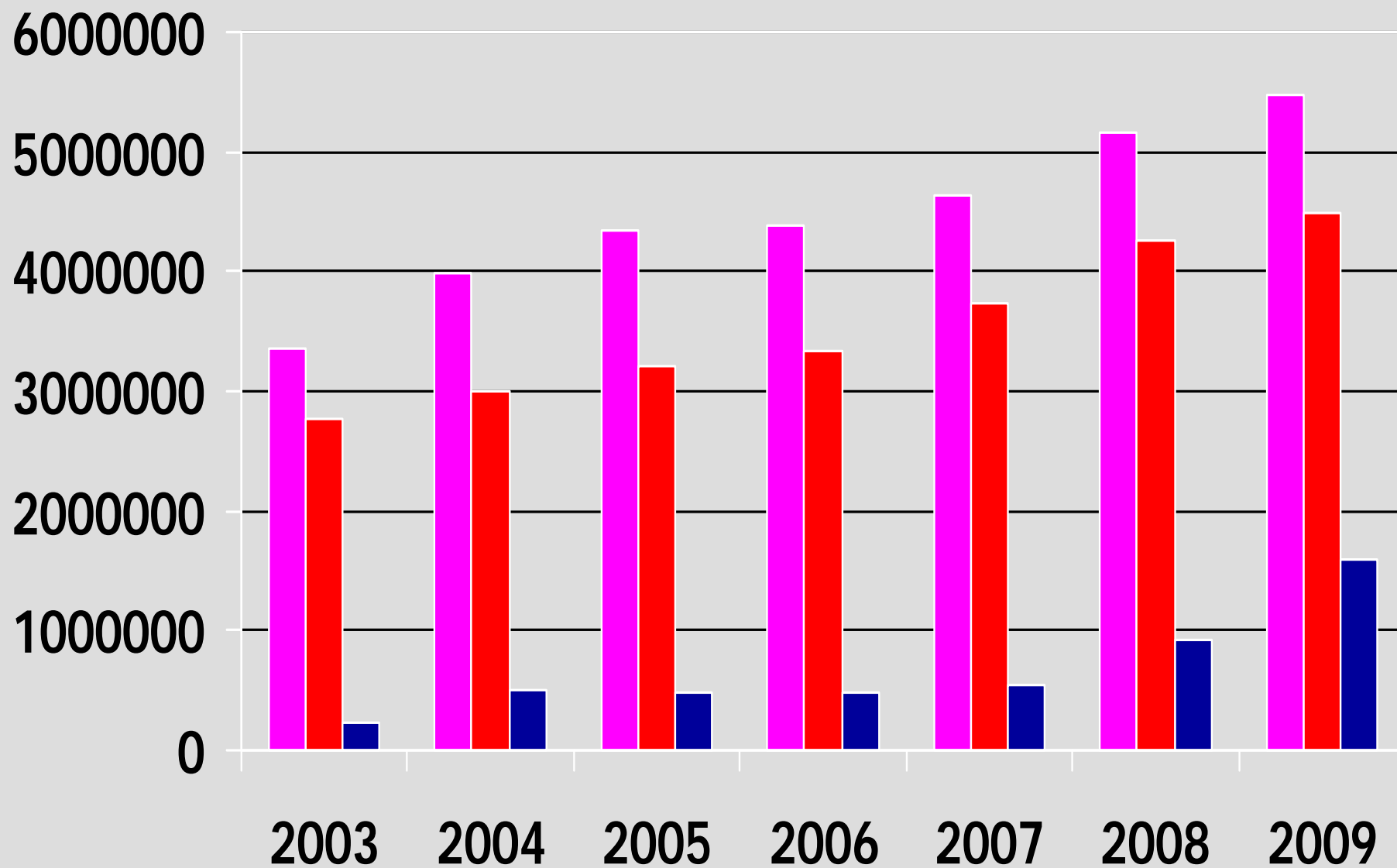
GRANTS AND FEES LOWER IMPACT TO
TAXPAYERS



Budget Summary Chart FY09

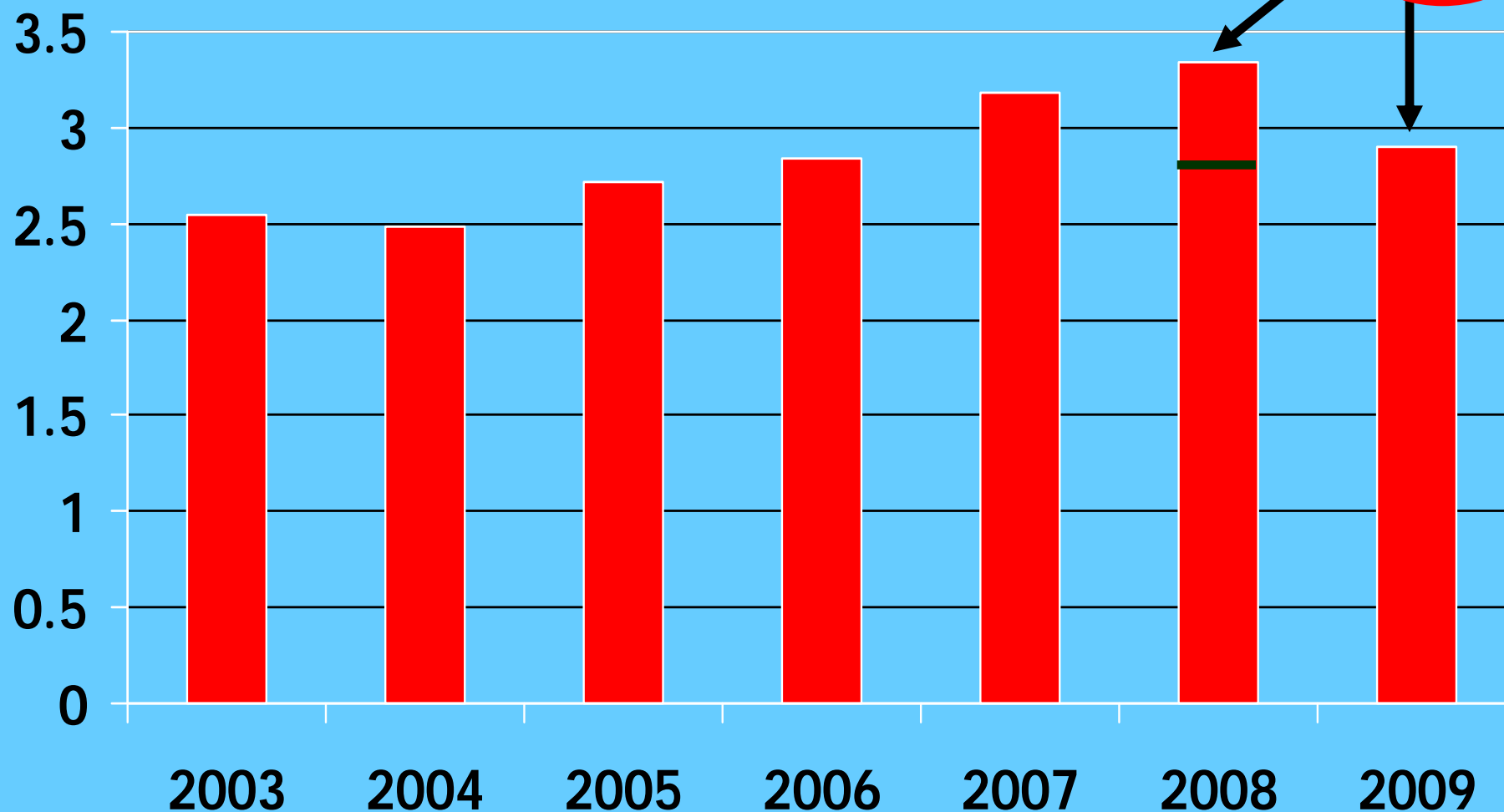


Pasco	Pinellas
DUI	MISC INC
Grants	Fees

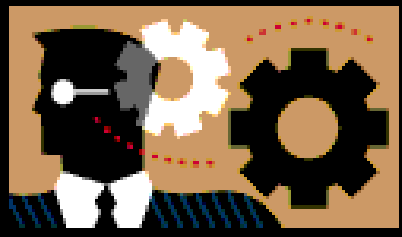


■ Total Cost ■ REQUEST ■ Pinellas Revenue

ANNUAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND



■ Net Impact to General Fund



How efficient is the operation?

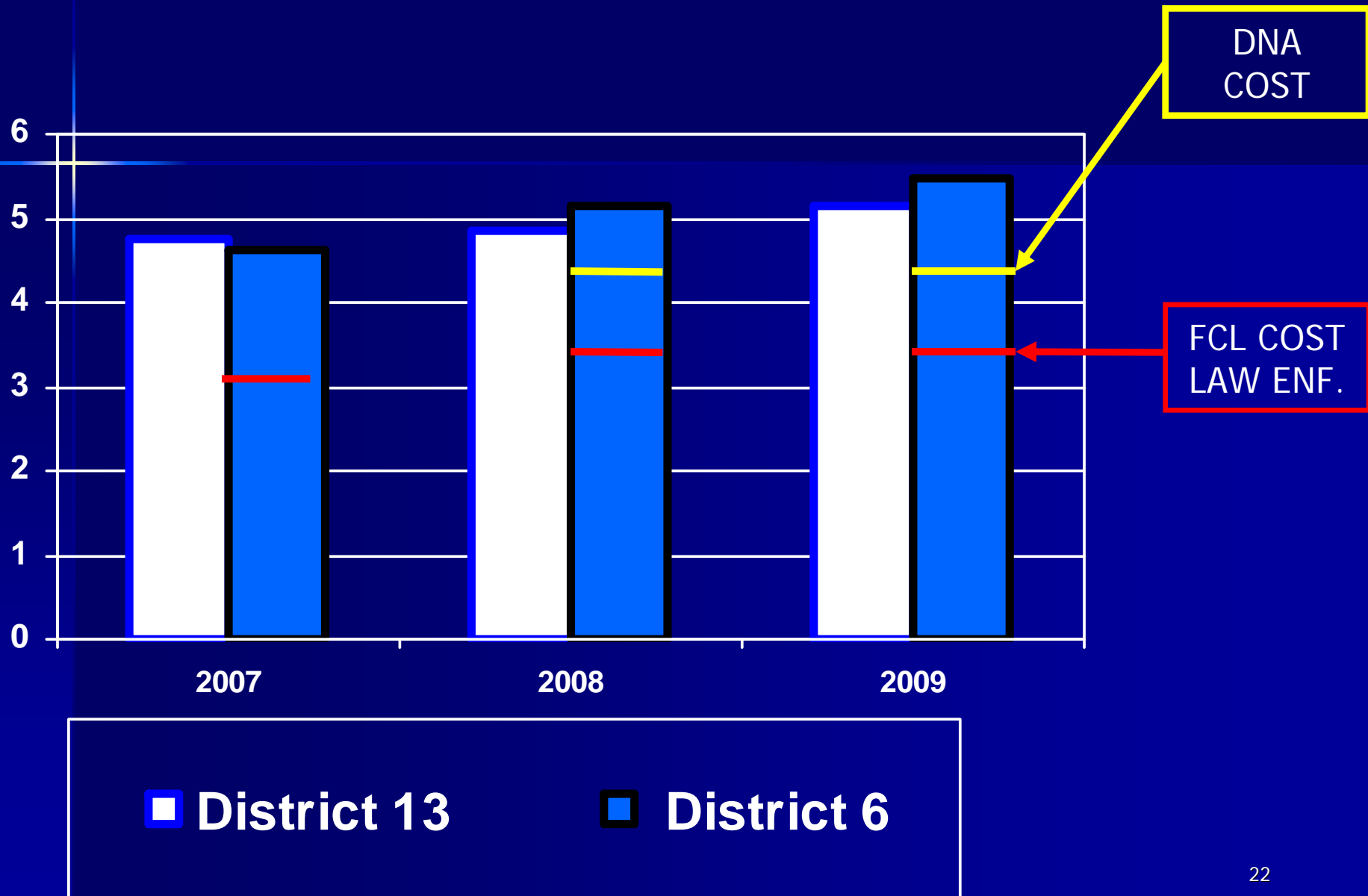
- How do we compare to neighboring Medical Examiner Districts for actual cost?
- Pinellas and Pasco Counties are getting a bargain

REQUESTED FY09

District 6 vs. District 13

- Death investigations about equal
- D13 (\$5.161m) does indigent services, no forensic lab
- D6 (\$5.46m): transport, DUI, Chemistry, Fire debris, DNA
- D6 costs ~\$330,000 more and provides many more services to the District and has 13 more FTE's
- Base upon the figures, comparing the management methods, our model saves taxpayers about \$800,000 per year
- Other nearby Districts result in similar comparisons

District 6 VS District 13 (in millions)





County to pay \$400,000 to Palo Alto family

Man was wrongly charged with killing his wife, who committed suicide

By Howard Mintz
Mercury News

Santa Clara County will pay \$400,000 and apologize to the family of a Palo Alto man who fought for years to prove that the sloppy work of the former coroner led him to be unjustly prosecuted for murder in his wife's death.

Family Told of Death Only To Learn Man Is On Life Support

By **RAY REYES** | The Tampa Tribune

Published: April 3, 2008

TAMPA-The mistake occurred when the medical examiner's office told homicide detectives that Gregorio Velazquez had died, police spokeswoman Laura McElroy said.

Taser firm sues Summit medical examiner over her rulings

Tuesday, April 22, 2008 Karen Farkas

Plain Dealer Reporter

Akron - Tasers don't kill, say the makers of the stun guns, so they went to court Monday to protect the company's reputation.

Taser International Inc. wants a judge to order Summit County Medical Examiner Dr. Lisa Kohler to change her rulings that "electrical pulse incapacitation" contributed to three men's deaths.

DISTRICT 6 OFFERS INDEMNIFICATION OF THE TAXPAYERS

Medical Examiners Accused Of Unauthorized Billing

A number of medical examiners in the Florida area have been accused of billing taxpayers for unauthorized fees, and charging them again for services that they are already paying or have already paid for. More than a dozen medical examiners have been accused of this practice in the state, with local attorneys filing suits against them.

Wieder sues medical examiner for \$5 million

By James A. Kimble

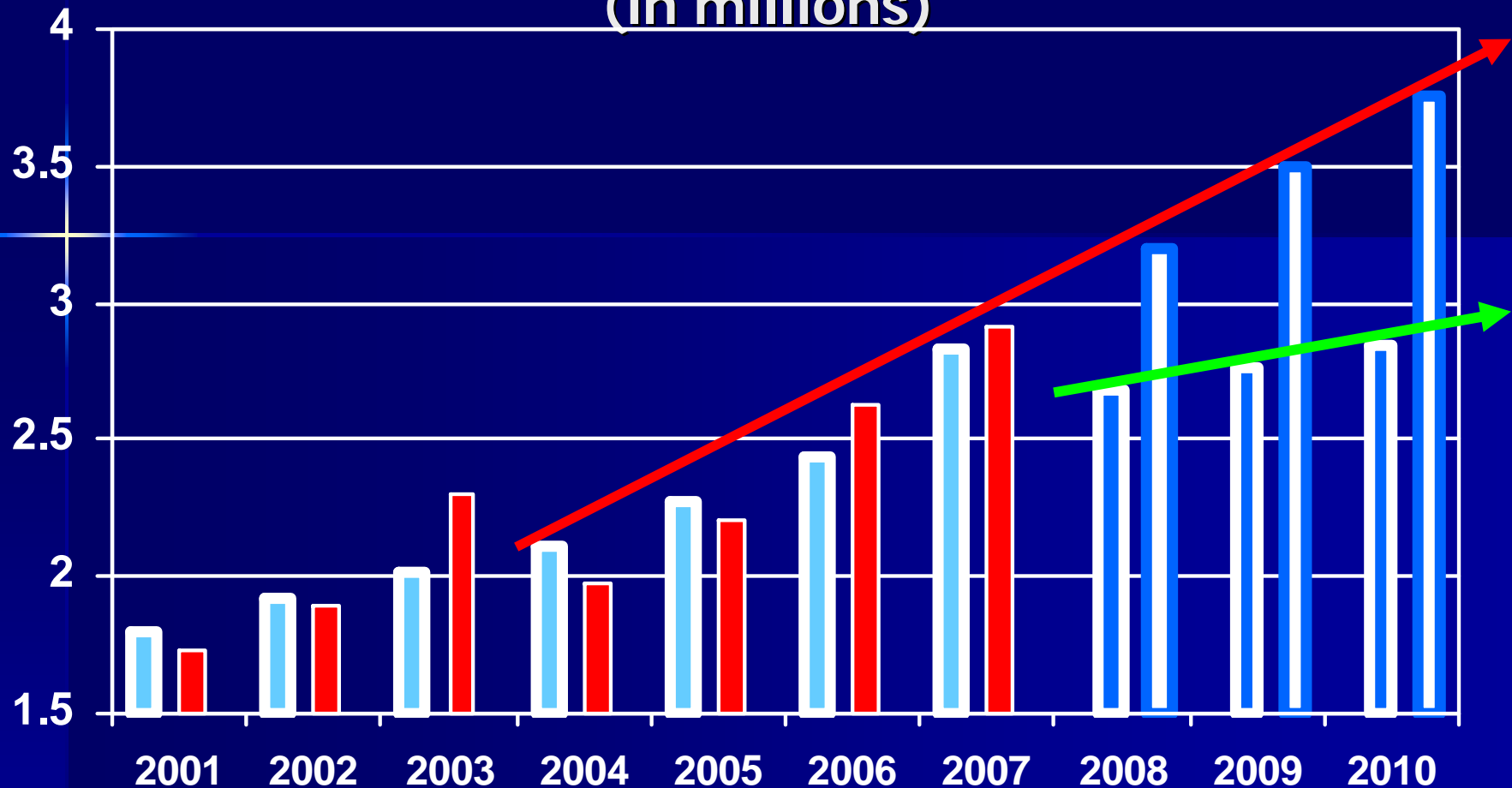
NEWBURYPORT, Mass. — The New Hampshire medical examiner's office is being sued for \$5 million

OUR EFFICIENCY TESTED DISTRICT 5



- As of spring 2007, D5 had no Medical Examiner, no prospects for replacement, massive internal problems, and a bloated budget
- We offered to rescue the District by converting them from County run to the District 6 Model.

DISTRICT FIVE COSTS and BENEFITS (in millions)



- county budgeted
- private
- county actual
- county extrapolation

A \$260,000 savings over two years for District 5
with those level of savings recurring annually
with the new system
\$70,000-80,000 directly to Pinellas for
Toxicology

Helped fund accelerated DNA validation

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS