



Central (Richmond)



Northern (Manassas)



Eastern (Norfolk)



Western (Roanoke)

DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCE UPDATE

Linda C. Jackson, Director

Presented to the Scientific Advisory Committee

April 21, 2026





New Staff

- Chief Deputy Director Amy Jenkins
- Forensic Biology Program Manager Elizabeth Ballard
- Communications and Executive Support Specialist David Siecker



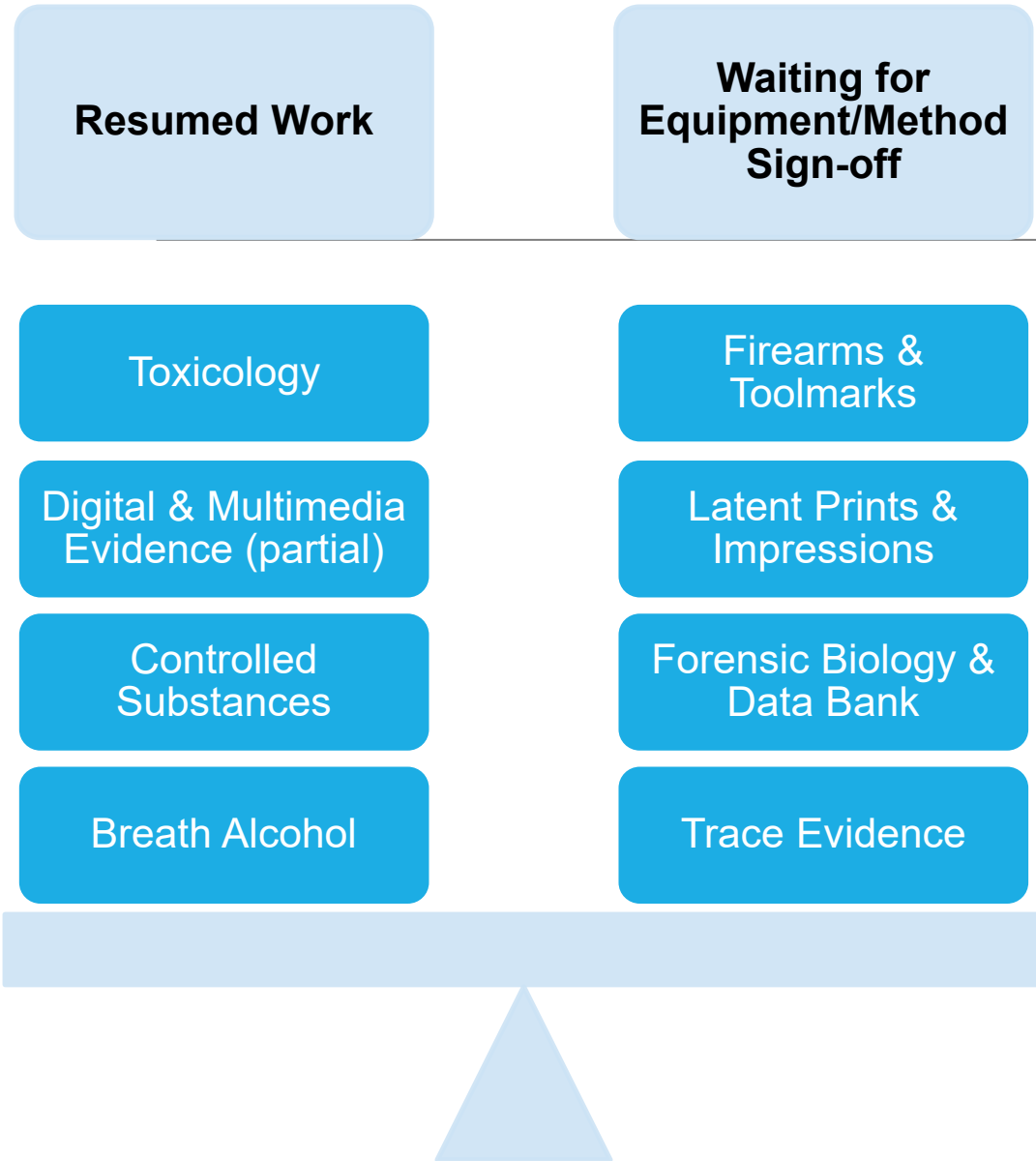
Central Laboratory Relocation

- Operations began moving March 9, 2026, and completion during the week of April 13th
- Contact information:
Virginia Department of Forensic Science
Central Laboratory
8850 Times Dispatch Blvd, **Suite 100**
Mechanicsville, VA 23116
 - All phone numbers remain the same!
 - All FAX numbers have been changed.





Casework Status



- Most instruments were packed and restarted by vendor
- On-site calibrations



Relocation Updates

- USPS delivery
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - Tentatively planned for June 3 at 10:00 AM



HB680 (Zehr) - Agency Bill Passed

- Removed the requirement that meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee take place in the City of Richmond
- Provided that a member of the Forensic Science Board and a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee appointed by the Governor shall serve after expiration of his term until his successor is appointed
- Contained an emergency clause – effective April 6, 2026



Outreach

- Presented “DFS Update” to Virginia Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Services Council Spring Institute – April 13
- Lab visits scheduled
 - Eastern: April 13 – 14
 - Northern: April 28 – 29
 - Western: April 30 – May 1



New Onboarding Process

- Inaugural DFS 101 training – Alka Lohmann
 - 3 modules for all staff
 - Additional 1 – 2 modules for scientific staff
 - DFS Quality System
 - Ethics
 - Forensic Science Community
 - Testimony
- Updated discipline modules - Staff
 - Introduction
 - Background of discipline
 - Types of evidence
 - Overview of methods
 - Brief information on interpretations and reporting
 - Important information for other sections that might share the evidence



Breath Alcohol Update

- Dräger Alcotest® 9510
- **First shipment of instruments received April 17, 2026**





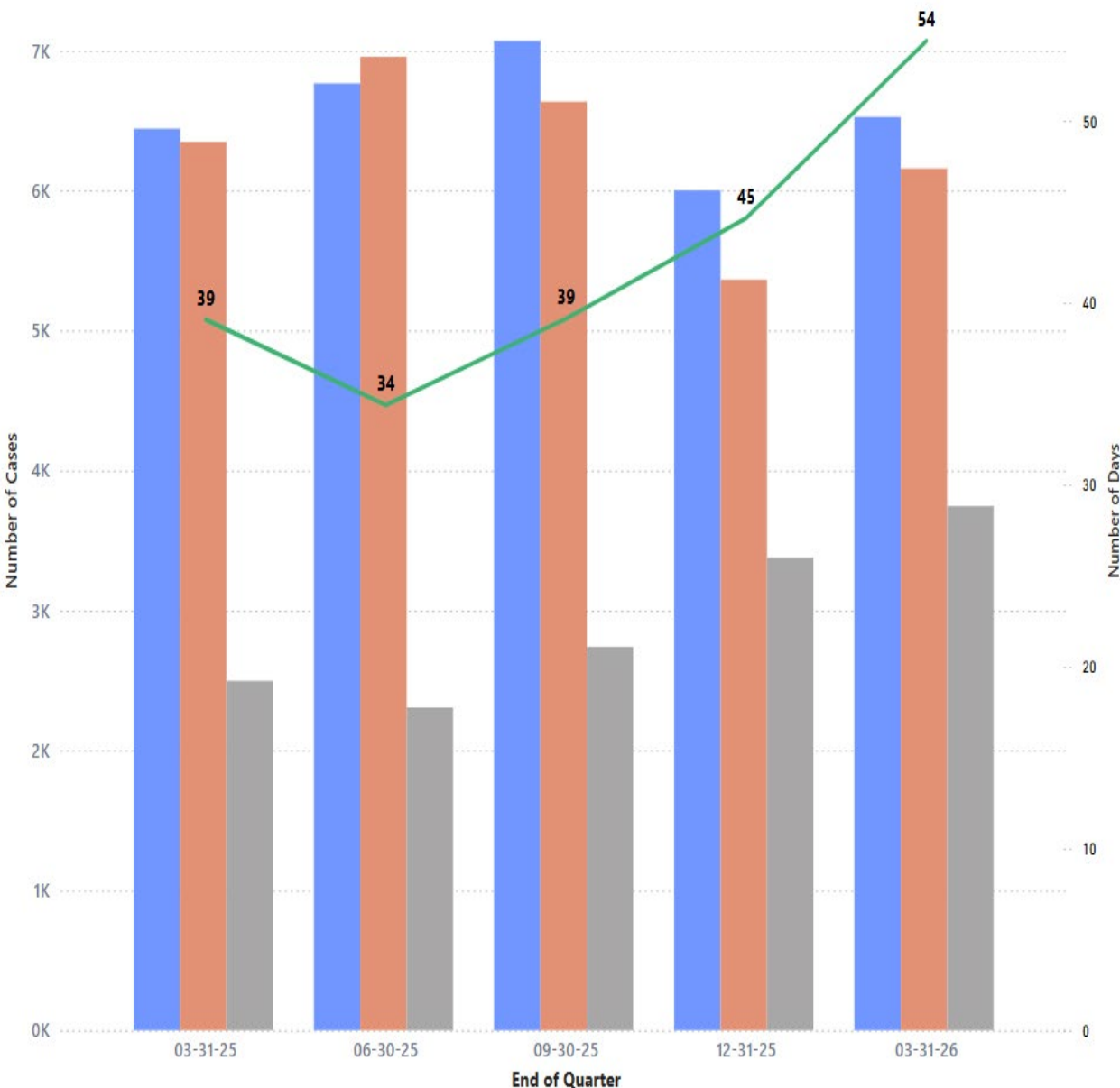
Case Transfers and Outsourcing

- Internal case transfers are continuing
 - Firearms (majority from Western)
 - Latent Prints (from Northern)
- Outsourcing
 - Non-persons cases for DNA testing – Bode Technology, Lorton, Virginia
 - OCME Toxicology cases (Western through June, Central during move)
 - Controlled Substances – THC edibles only – NMS Laboratories, Willow Grove, PA

Case Statistics



Controlled Substances

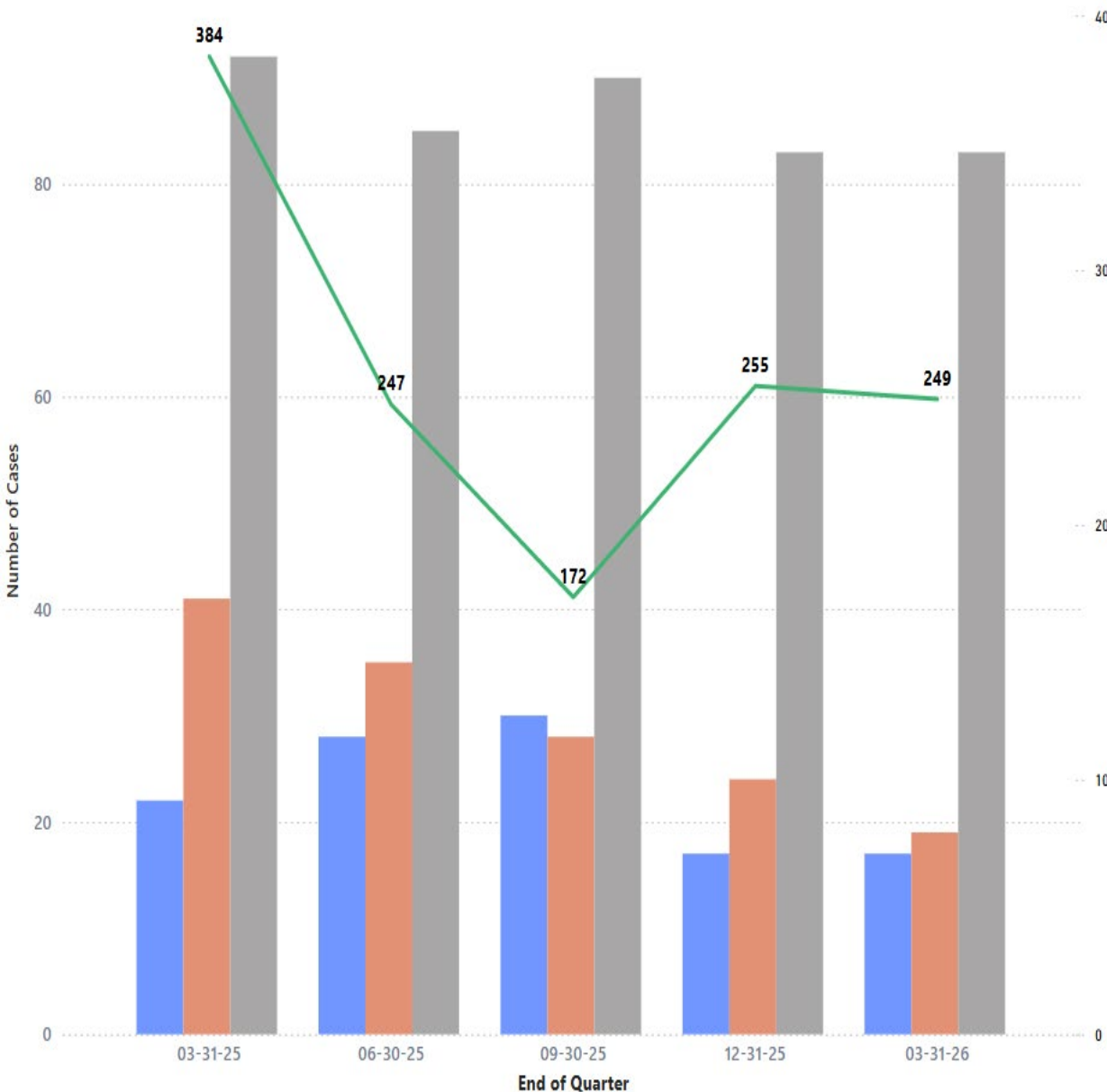


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	6,442	6,348	2,496	39
06-30-25	6,766	6,956	2,306	34
09-30-25	7,069	6,635	2,740	39
12-31-25	6,001	5,364	3,377	45
03-31-26	6,526	6,158	3,745	54

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Digital & Multimedia Evidence

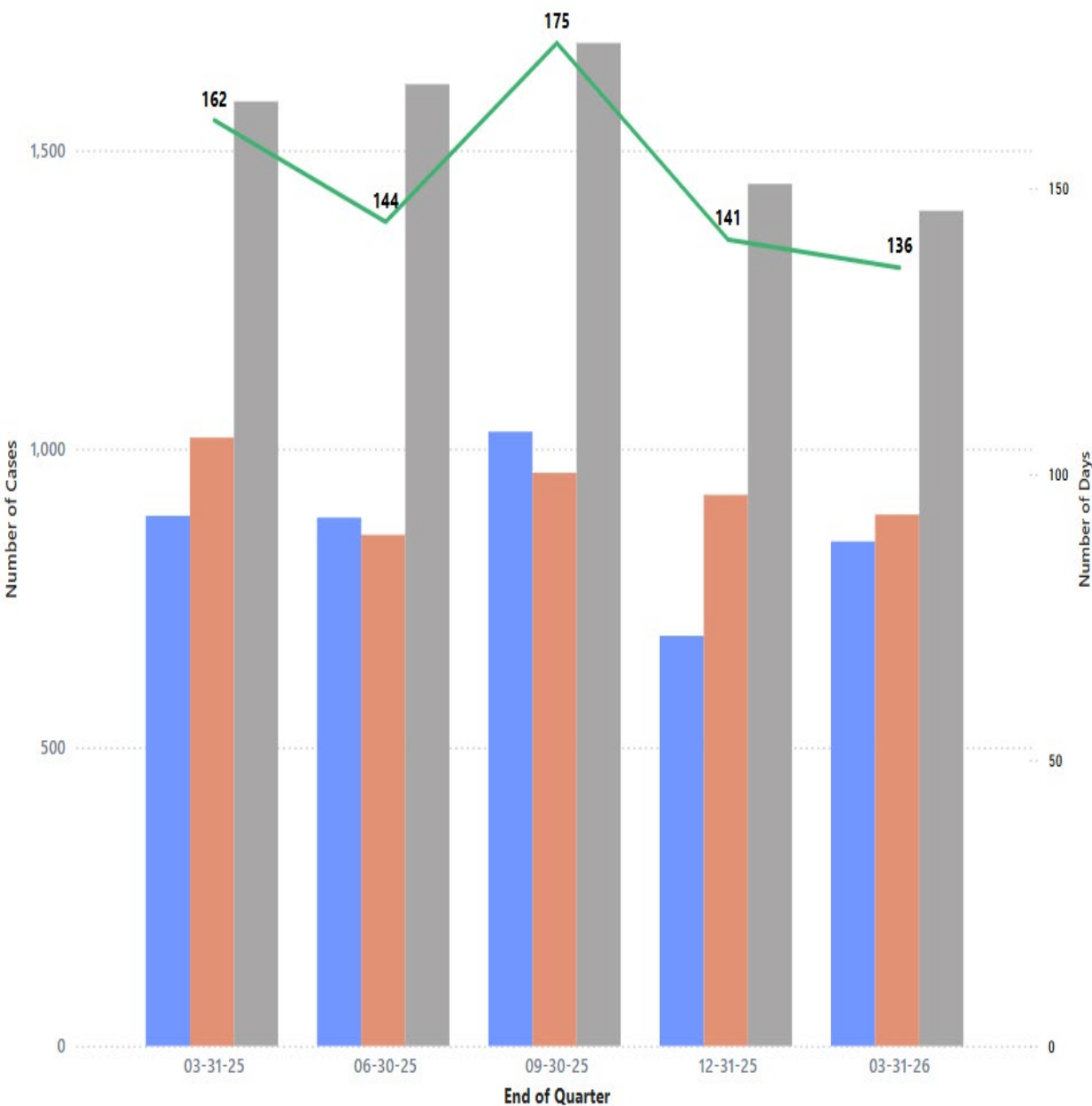


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	22	41	92	384
06-30-25	28	35	85	247
09-30-25	30	28	90	172
12-31-25	17	24	83	255
03-31-26	17	19	83	249

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Firearms & Toolmarks

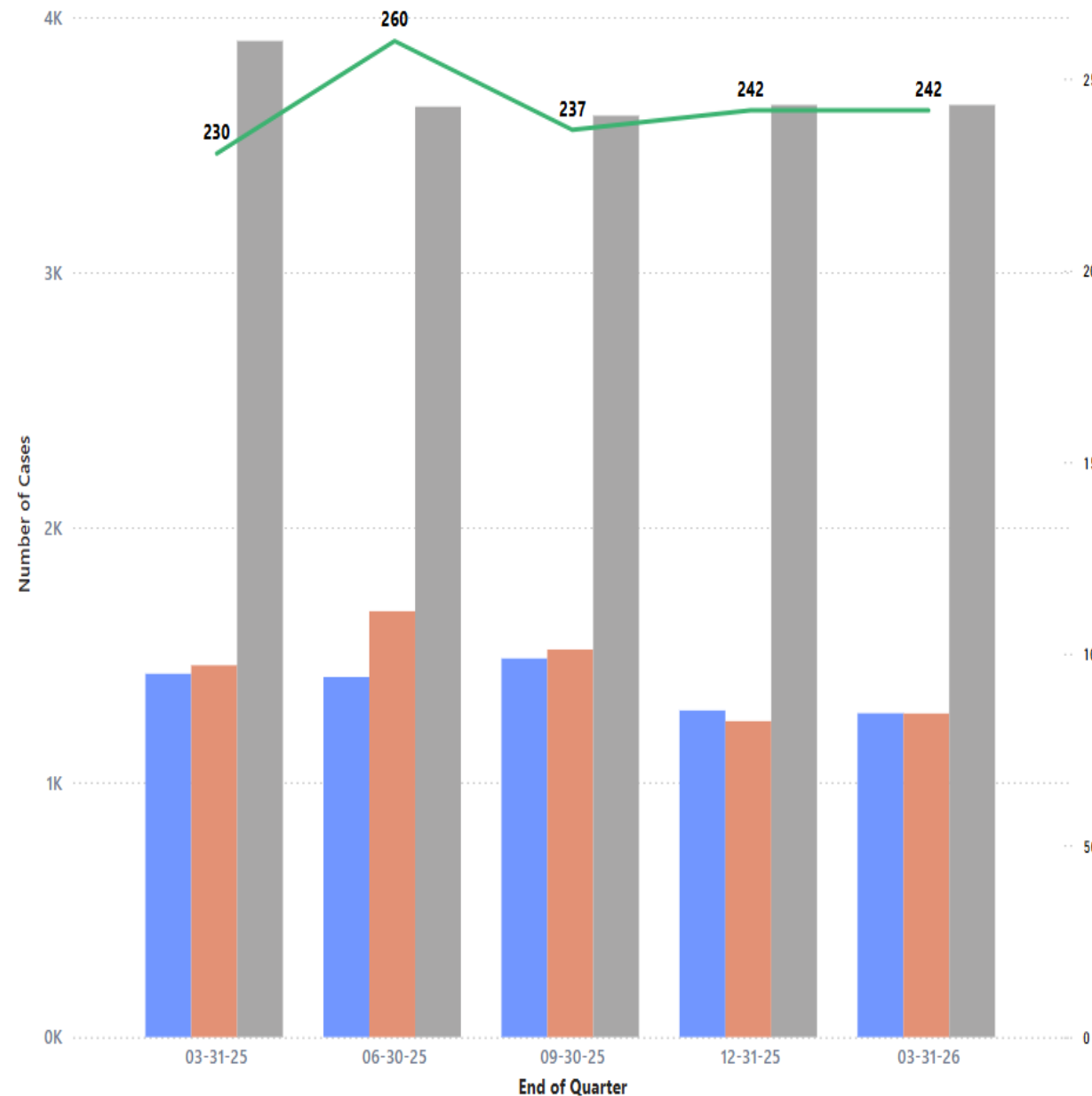


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	888	1,019	1,582	162
06-30-25	885	856	1,611	144
09-30-25	1,029	960	1,680	175
12-31-25	687	923	1,444	141
03-31-26	845	890	1,399	136

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Forensic Biology (DNA)

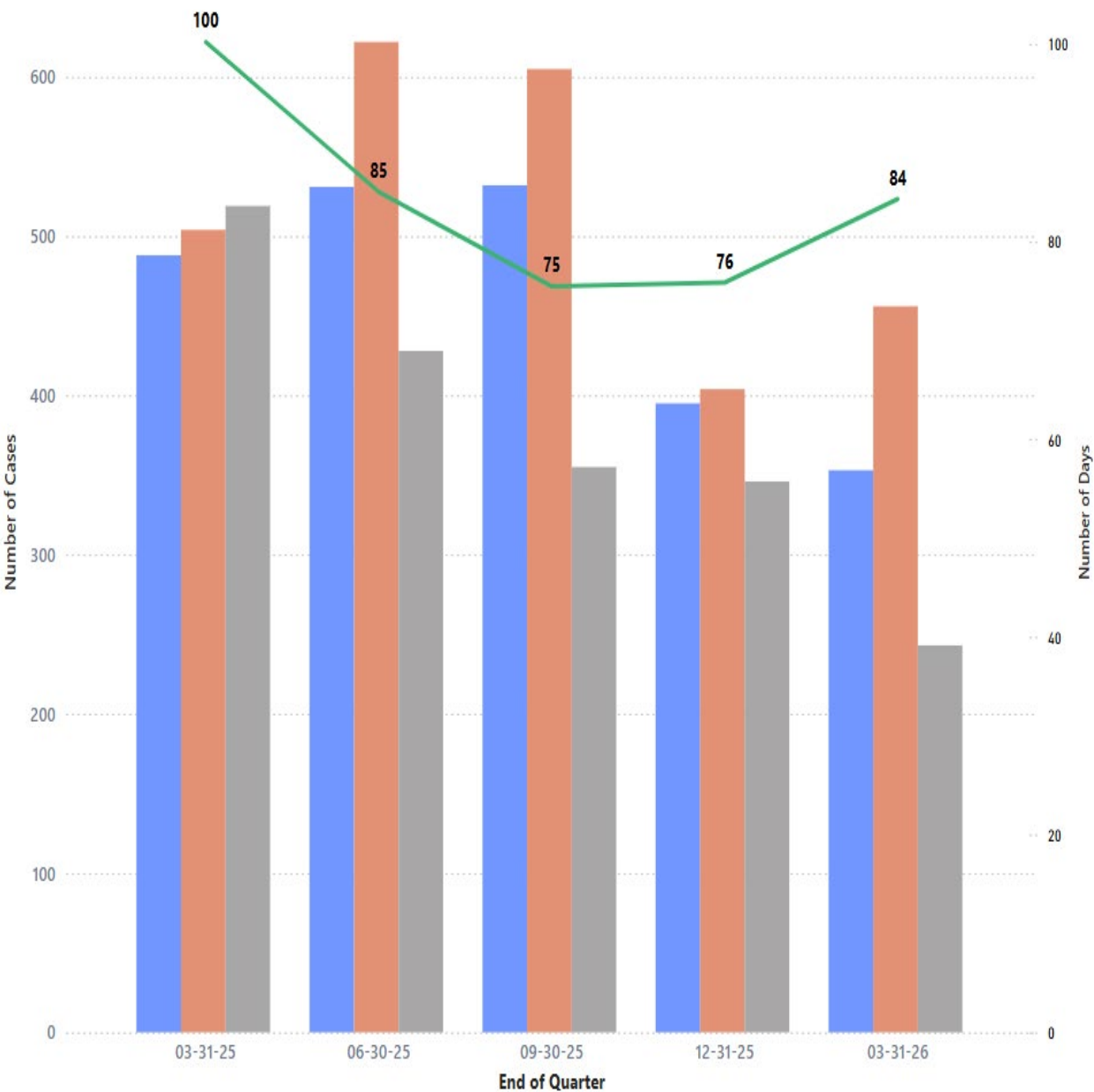


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	1,425	1,458	3,907	230
06-30-25	1,412	1,670	3,649	260
09-30-25	1,485	1,520	3,614	237
12-31-25	1,281	1,239	3,656	242
03-31-26	1,270	1,269	3,656	242

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Latent Prints & Impressions

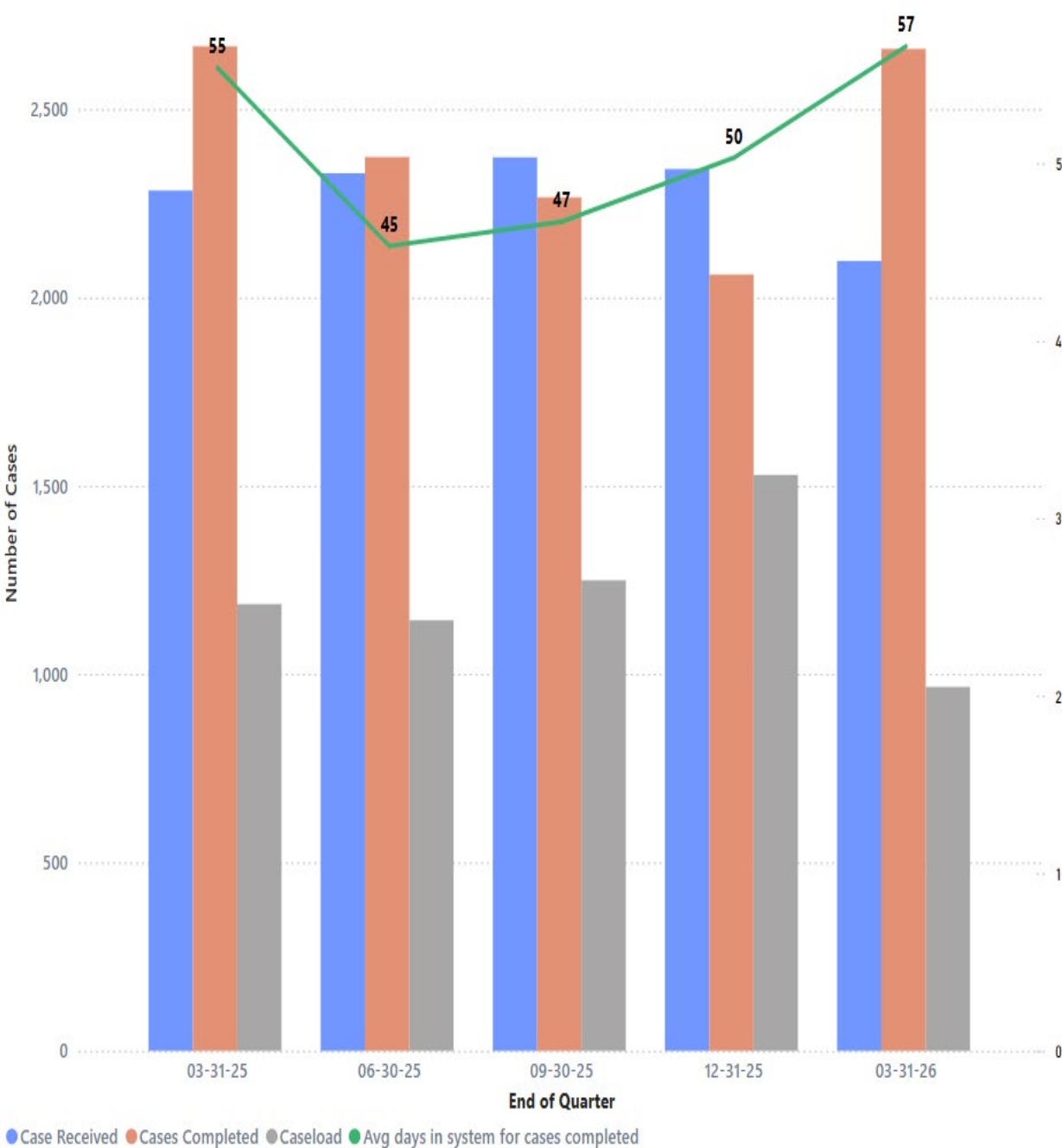


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	488	504	519	100
06-30-25	531	622	428	85
09-30-25	532	605	355	75
12-31-25	395	404	346	76
03-31-26	353	456	243	84

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed



Toxicology

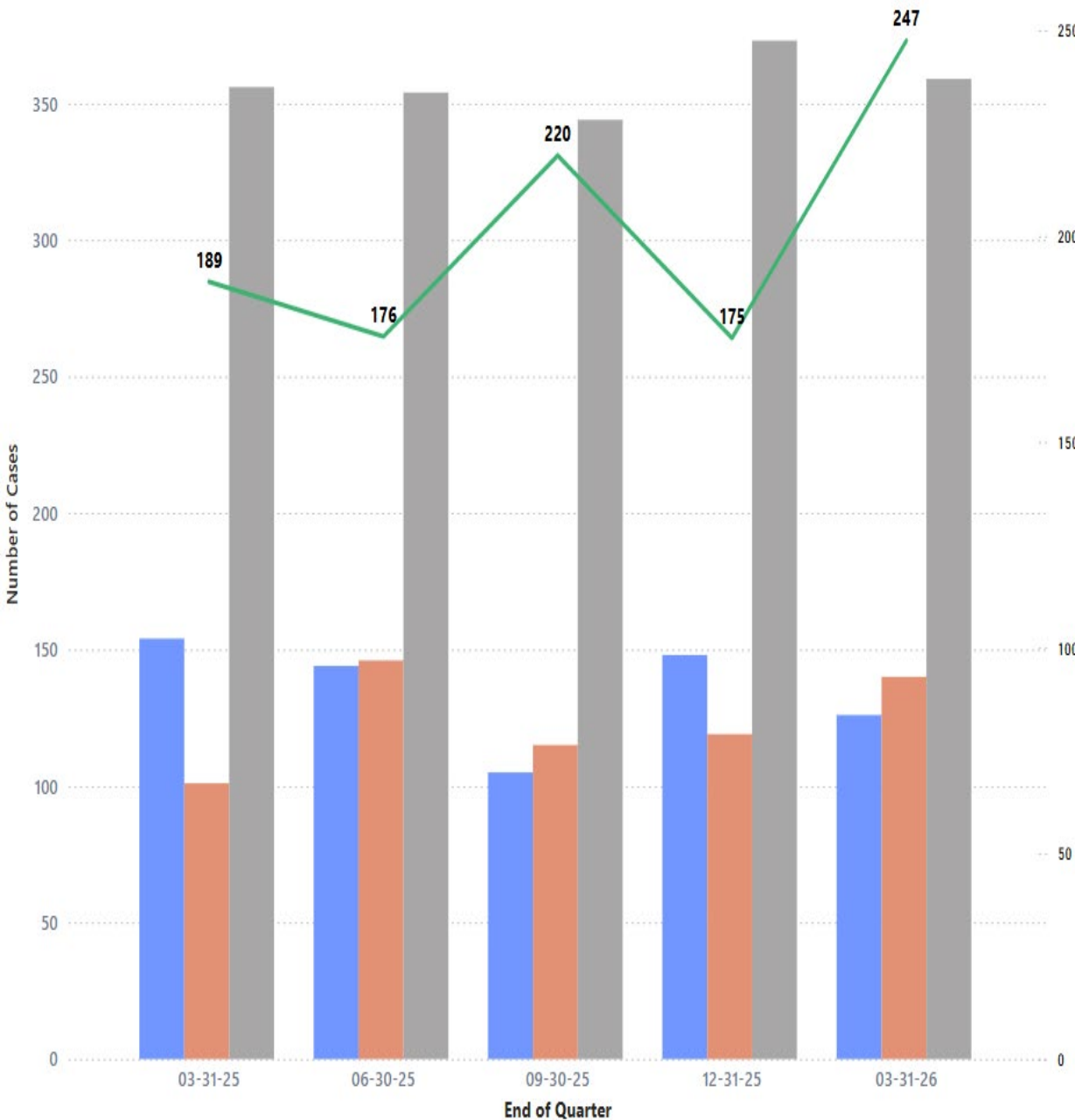


End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	2,284	2,667	1,186	55
06-30-25	2,330	2,373	1,143	45
09-30-25	2,372	2,266	1,249	47
12-31-25	2,341	2,061	1,529	50
03-31-26	2,097	2,660	966	57

- For move, outsourcing from the Central District from March 1 – April 17, 2026.
- Will continue allowing Western OCME to outsource suspected overdose cases to private laboratory through June 30, 2026



Trace Evidence



End Date	Case Received	Cases Completed	Caseload	Avg days in system for cases completed
03-31-25	154	101	356	189
06-30-25	144	146	354	176
09-30-25	105	115	344	220
12-31-25	148	119	373	175
03-31-26	126	140	359	247

● Case Received ● Cases Completed ● Caseload ● Avg days in system for cases completed

Budget and Resources



Staffing and Budget

- Maximum Employment Limit: 374 (347 GF + 27 NGF)
- Current Staffing: 325 GF + 20 NGF (all GF positions are in-recruit)
- ~\$5,453,000 remained at the end of FY2025
- DFS approved to carryforward \$5,452,192 for the following purposes:
 - \$3,299,455 for the purchase of replacement Breath Alcohol equipment
 - \$2,152,737 to cover transition costs for the new Central Lab

Governor's Introduced Budget - FY27/FY28



Department of Forensic Science

	Operating Budget Summary			Authorized Position Summary		
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Personnel Cost	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	Total Positions
2023 Appropriation	\$56,446,890	\$2,680,488	\$40,028,270	341.00	14.00	355.00
2024 Appropriation	\$55,888,025	\$2,680,488	\$40,373,881	345.00	14.00	359.00
2025 Appropriation	\$61,295,876	\$2,780,056	\$44,896,847	342.00	27.00	369.00
2026 Appropriation	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2027 Base Budget	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2027 Intro Changes	\$2,956,246	\$77,309	\$2,794,224	2.00	0.00	2.00
2027 Total	\$64,966,190	\$2,857,365	\$48,364,605	349.00	27.00	376.00
2028 Base Budget	\$62,009,944	\$2,780,056	\$45,570,381	347.00	27.00	374.00
2028 Intro Changes	\$3,007,282	\$77,309	\$2,844,674	2.00	0.00	2.00
2028 Total	\$65,017,226	\$2,857,365	\$48,415,055	349.00	27.00	376.00



Governor's Introduced Budget

Introduced Budget Non-Technical Changes

Increase staffing for the Forensic Biology Section (DNA)

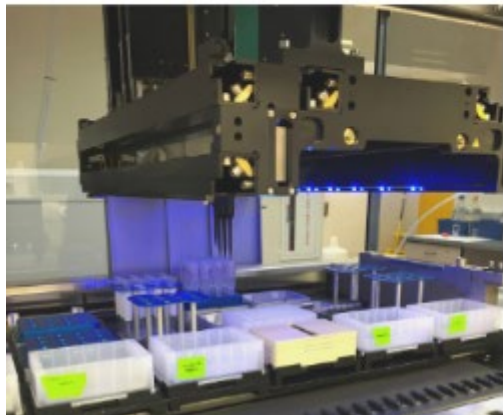
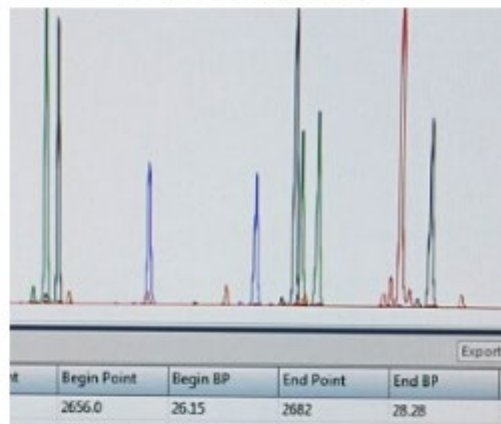
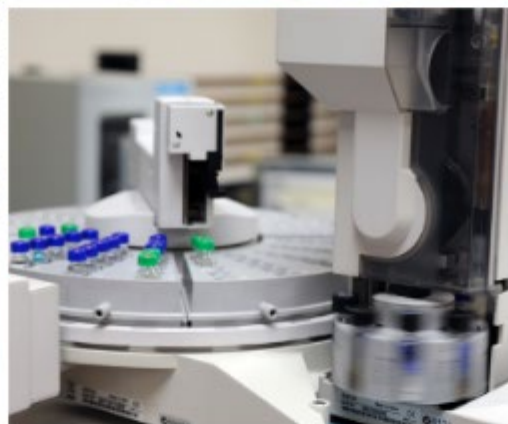
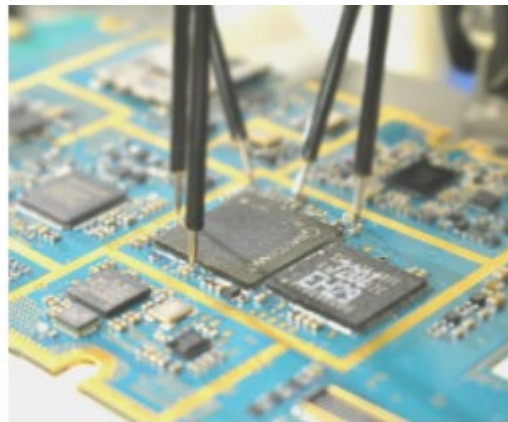
Provides funding and two forensic scientist positions to address workload issues in the Forensic Biology Section. These positions routinely examine items of evidence for the presence of biological material and are qualified to perform the full range of testing provided by the section.

	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>
General Fund	\$255,187	\$306,223
Authorized Positions	2.00	2.00



Grants

- Received: BJA FY25 DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) - Formula Grants Program
 - Notified on April 19, 2026
 - Total: \$1,858,249
- Applied: DMV Highway Safety Office Grants for Toxicology and Breath Alcohol



Thank you!