

APRIL 16, 2026

HOUSTON FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER

CITY OF HOUSTON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

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PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE TRANSITION

Enhancing your presentation

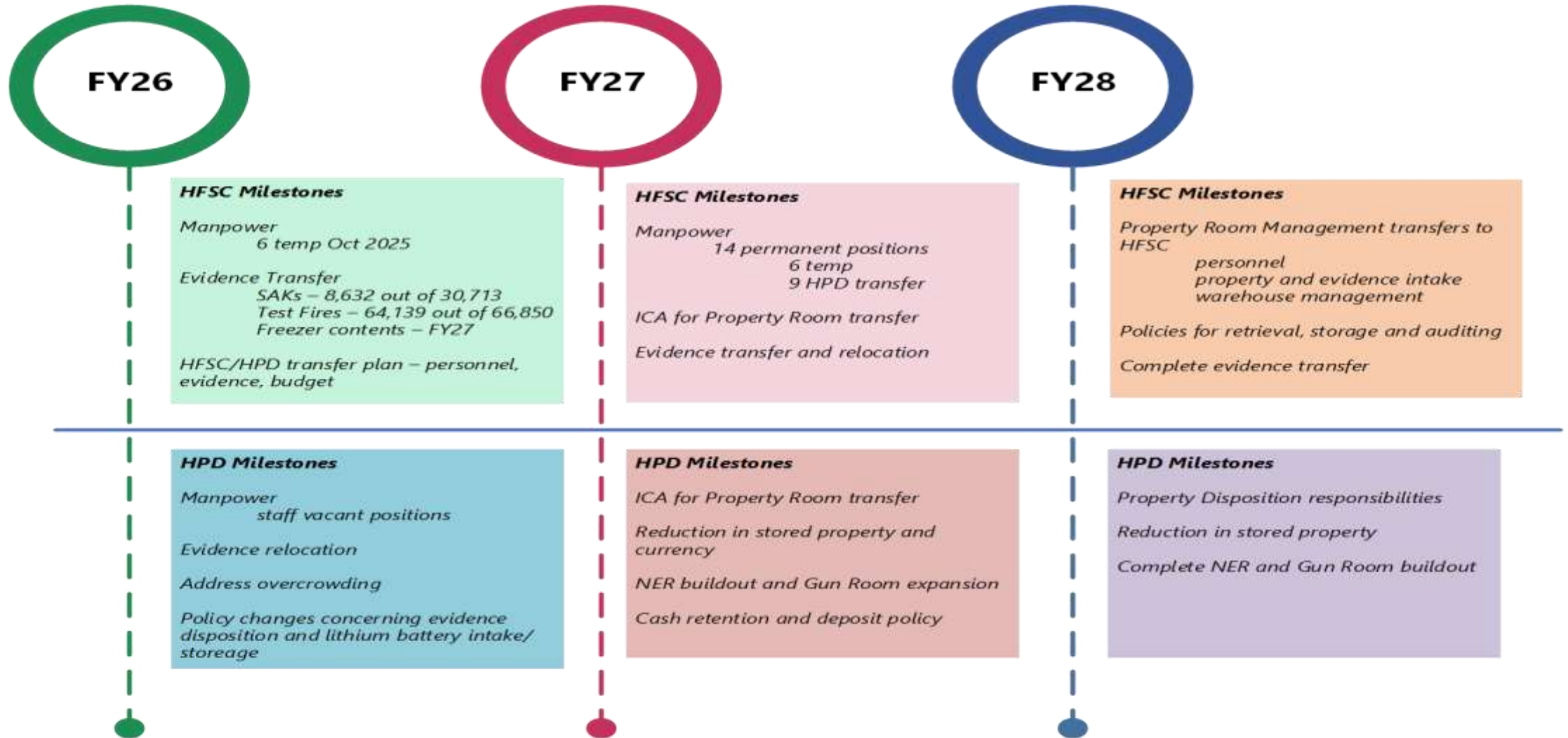
HISTORY AND PROGRESS



Transition the Property division from HPD to HFSC

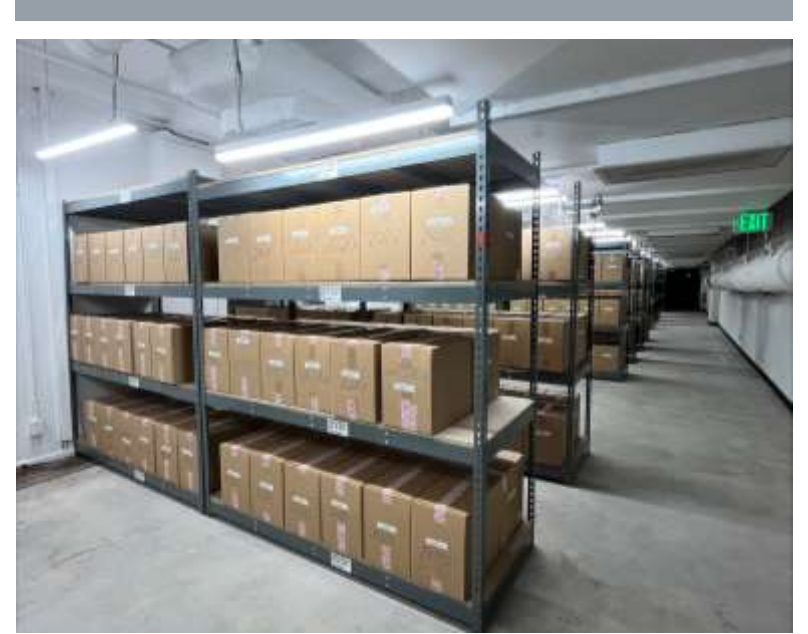
- Intake and preservation functions move to HFSC
- Disposition remains with HPD. It is HPD's evidence
- Reduced risk for HPD, better focus for resources
- Improved evidence quality for the entire system
- Standardize evidence collection
- Optimize collection for officer ease
- Increase efficiency for labs, LEAs and for courts

PROPERTY ROOM TRANSITION TIMELINE

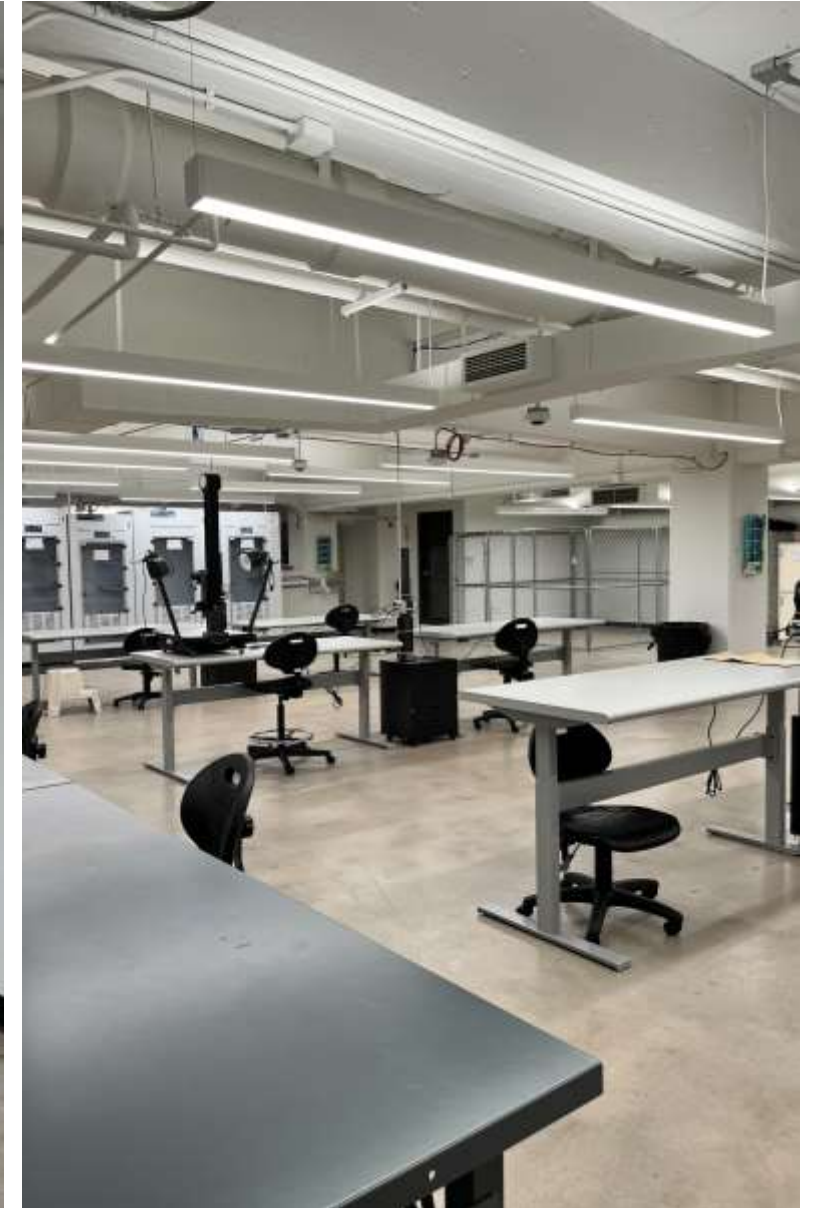


Information contained in the timeline will change and evolve as the transition progresses

EVIDENCE STORAGE AT JEFFERSON



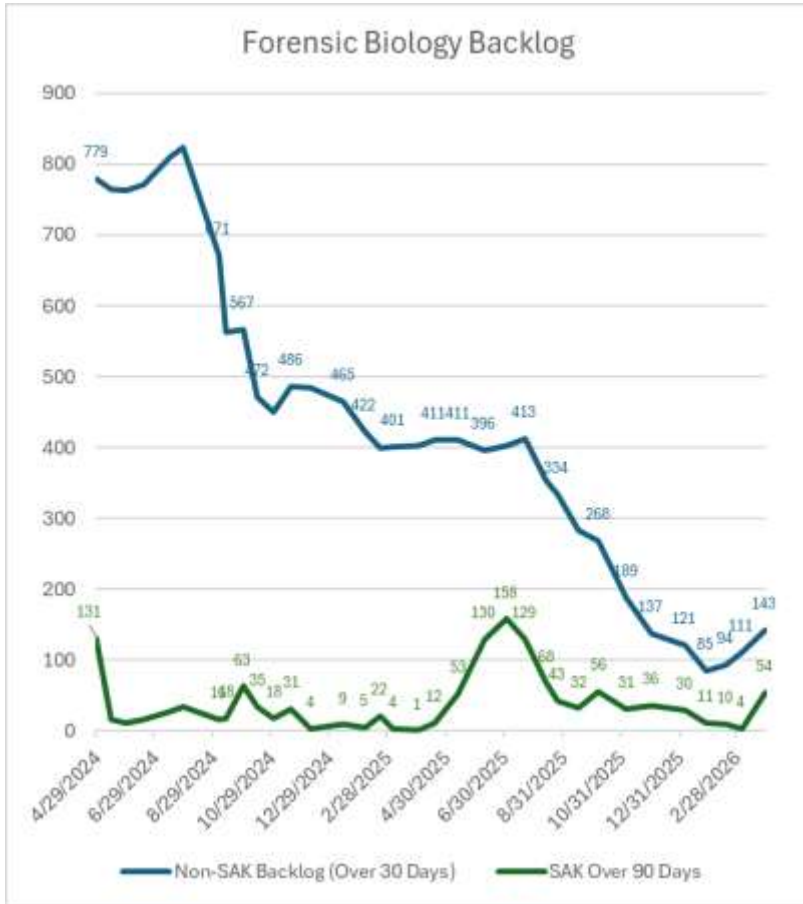
CRIME SCENE UNIT RENOVATION





LAB OPERATIONS

BACKLOG STATUS



UPCOMING OPERATIONAL ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

Function	What it does?	Target on line
3D crime scene mapping	Simple to use for end user interface providing 3-dimensional, navigable maps of crime scenes to scale that the end user can make all their measurements	May 2026
Rapid DNA (reference swabs)	Allow for processing of high priority reference DNA samples in hours. Accreditation Scope expansion in May 2026.	June 2026
Y-STR (male chromosome markers)	Paternal lineage tool. Necessary for cold cases. Accreditation scope expansion August 2026.	September 2026
Rapid DNA (evidentiary samples)	Allow for processing of high priority evidence samples likely to have single source high concentration. This is dependent of State-wide working group recommendations finalized	Early 2027
High resolution tandem mass spectrometry for seized drugs and toxicology (LC-QTOF)	Greater ability to efficiently identify the ever increasing unusual and shifting drugs we encounter	Late 2027



Liquid chromatography/tandem time-of-flight mass spectrometry (LC-QTOF)



Rapid DNA

Presented by Houston Forensic Science Center

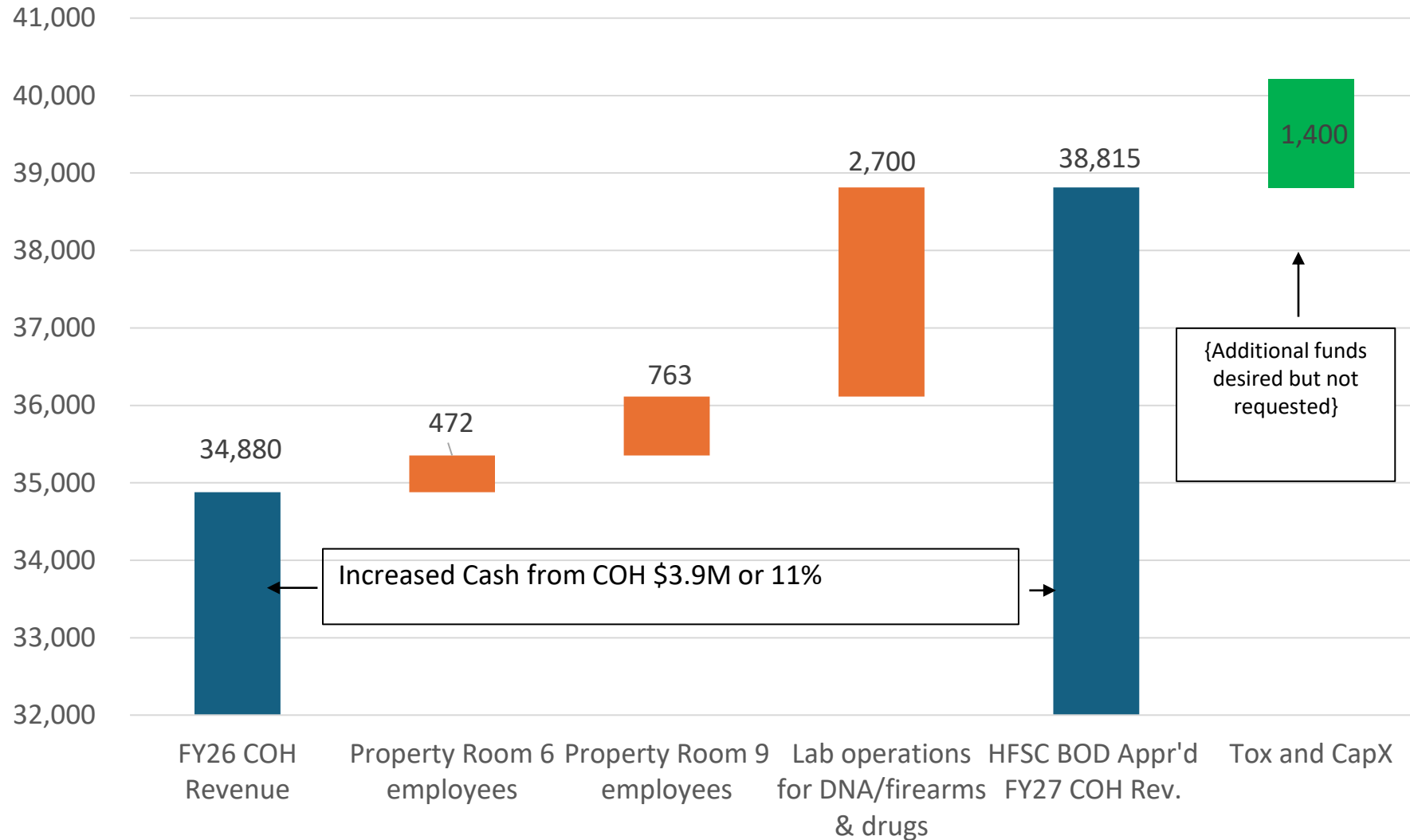
Mock Crime Scene



KEEP YOUR FEET OFF ALL WALLS



FY 2027 BUDGET



FOR HFSC COST PER REQUEST ESTIMATE

- Use the 75th percentile estimate as a more appropriate estimate of what we SHOULD be spending as a country (still low, but closer)*

\$2,200/request weighted average*

*Meaning our mixture is more expensive than the national average

- HFSC does not have DNA databasing (the least cost per case and second largest request type nationally)
- HFSC has a lower rate of drug cases than most labs
- Increasing proportion of DNA and firearms cases (among the most expensive requests)



FY 2026

- We will complete roughly 22,000 requests
- We will spend roughly \$37M
- We will spend roughly \$1,600/request on average (this is a big simple number)
- Spending that per request:
 - Has vastly improved quality
 - Is making progress on backlogs
 - Is at the edge of sustainable
 - Is because we have a lot of really dedicated people making it work at that number



FY 2027 (AS PASSED BY HFSC BOARD)

- Stays at roughly \$1,600/request and assumes roughly 22,000 requests
- Adds some labor for property.
- Anticipating an increase in biology with increased focus on cold cases, we are expecting about a 15% increase.
- Adds the start of shifting labor for property operations
- Anticipated cost increases
- At that point, we will continue to make progress.
 - DNA turn around expected to be sustainable
 - Seized drug backlog likely resolved
 - Firearms will still be backlogged but improving



BELOW THE PROPOSED FY 2027 FUNDING

- Below what the board passed, we will lose ground.
 - Backlogs will increase (in firearms, DNA, and toxicology). We must stop any outsourcing.
 - We will not be able to support initiatives by HPD
 - Property transition stops
 - Labor is 63% of costs, so labor is the only material thing to change
 - Less labor means less throughput
 - Outsource costs would have to reduce or stop
 - Primarily sexual assault kits (SAK)
 - Toxicology
 - Firearms
 - Once backlogs increase, they take years, if not decades, to resolve.



IDEAL FY27 BUDGET (ADDITIONAL \$1.4M)

- Accomplish all the goals of the HFSC approved budget and ADD:
- Address growing toxicology drug backlog
 - Increased outsourcing while training staff
- Address aging equipment needs
 - Analytical equipment
 - Facility and ventilation equipment