

FCA REPORT

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FCA-GKC



One family's experience with indigent funeral assistance

By Steve Nicely, FCA-GKC Board Member



Jonathan Scott, who died in January; his wife, Keara Scott, with his ashes. Keara worked with FCA-GKC to achieve Jackson County indigent financial assistance for Jonathan's cremation.

Jonathan T. Scott, 38, died of a drug overdose Jan. 18 in a friend's garage in Independence, Mo. His father, Steve Scott, of Enid, Okla., contacted me because I am listed on the FCA website as an emergency contact.

Scott said he was disabled and lacked resources for funeral expenses and Jonathan's wife, Keara Scott, of Greenwood, Mo., also lacked resources. Keara is a restaurant server who lives in a recreational vehicle with the couple's two teenage sons. She has been sober for a decade with help from Narcotics Anonymous. Keara and Jonathan were not divorced but had been separated for more than 10 years.

Keara had applied to the Jackson County Public Administrator for an "indigent," county-paid cremation.

The process of seeking help

Four days after Jonathan's death, Keara and I began communicating. My first act was to urge her to submit an application for financial help from Jackson County. One of her concerns was that the morgue had said it would only hold an unembalmed body for 10 days following death.

I explained that her alternative would be to seek the least expensive cremation she could find, and that I would help her with that, based on the FCA-GKC's funeral-price survey data.

Then began the waiting for a response to

See Indigent, page 7

Funeral prices cover a vast range

Here are some things we learned by updating our listing of prices (pages 3–6) charged by 114 funeral homes in Kansas City and surrounding areas:

- You can pay as little as \$710 for a cremation or as much as \$10,010 for a standard funeral (not including casket or cemetery expenses). It all depends on which provider you choose and what you want.
- The areawide average for direct cremation (no visitation, funeral service, or embalming) is \$1,889, ranging from \$710 to \$3,790—five times more from low to high.
- The areawide average for an immediate burial (no embalming, visitation, or service) is \$3,197 ranging from \$1,195 to \$5,195—four times more from one place to another.
- The areawide average for a standard funeral (*does* include embalming, visitation, and a service) is \$6,485 ranging from \$3,625 to \$10,010—2.8 times more from one place to another.

Knowledge about the wide range of prices is valuable, especially for families with limited resources. It's the reason many area social workers, health-care providers, and clergy eagerly await our updated price surveys. We urge these professionals, and all of you, to make decisions not on price alone, but also considering desired services, provider location, relationships with providers, and provider reputation.

Please note that the FCA-GKC does not recommend or endorse specific funeral homes. We just provide the information. As our mission statement states: "...to educate and support individuals and families in making informed decisions about death-related services consistent with their values and lifestyles."

Some funeral directors don't appreciate our publishing their prices, but others do—especially those with competitive prices. Besides, where else can they check up on what their competition is charging? The Federal Trade Commission agrees with us that people have a right to know what they are being charged at this vulnerable time of their lives. The FTC mandates that funeral homes keep standardized general price lists (GPLs) and give them to anyone who asks in person. In the process of compiling this survey, some providers do

See Survey, page 8

Past board member memorialized

By Steve Nicely, FCA-GKC Board Member



Former FCA-GKC board member James C. Fitzpatrick, 76, died in February in Fort Myers, Fla., from congestive heart failure and the Covid virus. His affiliation with us was his first board membership after he retired from a journalism career at *The Kansas City Star*. He served on our board from 2010 through 2016.

The Star prohibited its journalists from serving with organizations to avoid potential conflicts of interest. Freed from that restriction after retiring, Jim embraced civic volunteerism. At the time of his death he was president of the boards of the Highland Cemetery of Prairie Village and the City of Fountains Foundation, which works with the Kansas City Parks Department to keep the city's many fountains repaired and functioning.

Jim found another path to activism in his blog, "JimmyCSays," where he was free to criticize or commend *Kansas City Star* editors and news coverage.

"He was happy writing the blog," said his widow, Patty. "He could finally be opinionated after all those years."

For instance, he had opposed the push for a new Kansas City Royals stadium downtown. Read his last blog entry, in which he accepted the inevitability of the move and supported it as long as existing taxes are not raised:

<https://jimmycsays.com>

Jim had planned for a natural burial at Highland Cemetery, but that became impractical by his death so far from home. His body was cremated. An obituary appeared in the April 9 *Star* and a memorial service was held April 13.

The FCA-GKC deeply valued Jim's participation and we will miss his presence in our lives. □

Willed-body programs

Two area medical schools, when arranged in advance, accept bodies for anatomy classes and research. The University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, does not pay for transporting the body, but the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences does. The bodies are cremated after use and the ashes returned to families. See the fall 2014 FCA newsletter on our website for details.

Speakers available

Contact us if your group would like an unbiased presentation from a board member, either virtually or in person. We are an independent, all-volunteer, nonprofit organization with no products to promote. We don't charge for our services but we do depend on contributions.

Our mission

To educate and support individuals and families in making informed decisions about death-related services consistent with their values and lifestyles. □

The big picture

By Diane Etzel-Wise
FCA-GKC President



This is my first column as president of the board of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City. I am Diane Etzel-Wise and I joined the board in January 2020. My work history includes providing mental health services and support to folks in the Kansas City area and teaching at regional universities.

In 2021, our FCA group commemorated its 60th anniversary, hampered by Covid-19; much like the rest of the world, we adapted. With accolades to our wonderful and creative board members, we were able to continue meeting and providing newsletters, annual programs, and speaking engagements. I am especially thankful for our immediate-past president, Kate Sargent, who constantly rallied our spirits. I am thankful to our past board members who have contributed to our knowledge base over the years, some of whom continue to support us through activities or financial contributions. We especially acknowledge the passing of past treasurer Jim Fitzpatrick.

This newsletter issue brings you our 2023 Price Survey, a gigantic effort headed up by Dave Johnson, our treasurer, and made immensely smoother by Amy Simmons, a UMKC social work faculty member who recently joined our board. This project has been supported by our secretary, Angie Martinez-Gray; Jacque Amweg; and Carol Condon. We have welcomed an ad-hoc board member this past year in Lynn Anderson, and are welcoming a new member at large in April, Chiquita Miller.

This column also brings you part one of a summary of a book handed to me by Steve Nicely, our esteemed newsletter editor and board member for 20 years. *Digital Remains: Death, Dying and Remembrance in the Tech Generation*, was penned by J.H. Harrington and published by New Degree Press in 2020.

Harrington defines digital remains as "the temporary and perpetual imprints, both direct and indirect, of our lives and existence that are present in digital forms on the Internet, in the cloud, or coded into other extractable sources. More succinctly, our information that exists online (photos, posts, blogs, articles, and mentions) composes our digital remains. The book includes a Social Media Cleanup Guide and a Digital Remains Planning Guide, both useful tools as you look at your digital presence in the world. Harrington also suggests that people assign someone to carry out their wishes upon their death—a "designated digital remains steward."

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2023 FUNERAL PRICE SURVEY



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Funeral prices show modest area increase

Service	2023 average price	Change since 2020	Price range
Standard funeral	\$6,485	+ 8.74%	\$3,625–\$10,010
Immediate burial	\$3,197	+ 3.26%	\$1,195–\$5,195
Direct cremation	\$1,889	+ 7.15%	\$710–\$3,790

Price charged by 114 funeral homes included

This survey of prices charged by 114 area funeral homes was compiled by FCA-GKC volunteers from the general price lists (GPLs) that the Federal Trade Commission requires funeral homes to provide to consumers. The listing is available online at funeralskc.org. To request printed copies, email fca.gck@gmail.com or call 816-561-6322.

Standard funeral

The elements of standard funerals leading to burial include embalming, a visitation, and a funeral service. The \$6,485 average price does not include a casket or cemetery costs, which could easily add \$4,000 or more to the total. Although a standard funeral was once the choice of most families, now the majority choose less-costly options.

Immediate burial

At an average of \$3,197, this option shaves \$3,288 from the standard funeral average by eliminating embalming, a visitation, and a funeral service. However, immediate burial still requires a cemetery's additional expense. The average price *does not* include a casket.

Direct cremation

With an average price of \$1,889, direct cremation is the least-costly method of body disposal. It involves taking the body to a funeral home or crematory, placing it in a container of fiberboard or cardboard, cremating it, and returning the ashes to the family. No embalming, visitation, or service is involved unless families choose to add them to the cost. The crematory fee should be included in the price. Check with the provider to be sure that it is.

Cremation is now the choice of most families. Cemeteries sell niches in columbaria walls for ashes. Names and dates are inscribed on covers and recorded in the cemetery's records. Some families scatter the ashes in meaningful places or keep them for memorial services later. The chief disadvantage of cremation is its negative effect on the environment because of the large amount of energy consumed in the process.

Wide range of prices

The prices charged by each of the 114 area funeral homes for the three basic funeral types appear inside. They reflect a wide range among providers. For instance, the highest immediate-burial price is \$5,195, four times higher than the lowest in the chart. The highest direct cremation is five times higher than the lowest. The highest standard funeral is 2.8 times higher than the lowest.

Not appearing in the detailed chart inside are the individual prices funeral homes charge for services such as embalming, transporting the body, visitation, vehicle rental, etc. Those prices can be found on the general price lists that funeral homes are required to provide when asked. The area-wide averages for each of the services appear below. "Basic services," the largest price on the list, is the amount funeral providers charge for the expenses of their facilities and overhead. □

Area average prices for specific services

Basic services	\$2,375
Embalming	\$888
Transporting the body	\$493
Visitation	\$458
Funeral service	\$587
Hearse	\$475
Limousine	\$391
Graveside service	\$462
Body preparation	\$356

FCA-GKC 2023 Area Survey of Funeral Home Prices

All prices were taken from the General Price Lists (GPL) that funeral homes are required by federal law to provide to consumers

Missouri	Funeral Home	Address	Telephone	GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral
KC Metro Kansas City; Grandview; Raytown; Independence	Assurance Cremation Society	860 W. Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64156	816-941-2273	Apr-20	1,125	n/a	n/a
	Carson-Speaks Chapel	1501 W. Lexington Ave., Independence, MO 64052	816-252-7900	Oct-22	3,790	4,290	7,395
	Charter Funerals - Blue Ridge	5000 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133	816-921-5555	Sep-21	1,270	2,095	5,185
	Cremation Society of KS & MO	5561 N.W. Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64154	816-822-9888	Sep-21	1,195	n/a	4,370
	Cooley-Marcum-Harvey Funeral Care	9100 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138	816-763-9100	Feb-23	1,070	2,540	6,850
	E.S. Eley & Sons Funeral Chapel	4707 E. Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64127	816-924-8700	Nov-21	995	n/a	5,640
	Elite Funeral Chapel	11525 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64134	816-765-0141	May-22	1,350	2,995	5,815
	Newcomer's Floral Hills Funeral Home	7000 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64133	816-353-1218	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	10,010
	Golden Gate Funeral & Crem Service	2800 East 18th St., Kansas City, MO 64127	816-255-3676	May-22	845	1,595	5,845
	Heartland Crem & Burial Society-Raytown	6113 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raytown, MO 64133	816-313-1677	Oct-22	1,195	1,790	4,220
	Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel	1800 E. Linwood Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64109	816-921-1800	Mar-22	1,090	1,495	6,110
	Longview Funeral Home & Cemetery	12700 S. Raytown Rd., Kansas City, MO 64149	816-761-6272	Oct-22	1,690	3,995	7,355
	Louis Memorial Chapel	6830 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64131	816-361-5211	Jan-22	2,615	4,775	7,900
	McGilley Antioch Chapel	3325 N.E. Vivion Road, Kansas City, MO 64119	816-453-7700	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	9,910
	McGilley & George Funeral Home & Crematory	12913 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030	816-966-0250	Feb-23	1,860	3,995	7,510
	McGilley State Line Chapel	12301 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145	816-942-6180	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	9,910
	McGilley Memorial - Midtown Chapel	21 W. Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64111	816-753-6200	Feb-23	2,160	4,595	8,810
	McGilley & Sheil Funeral Home & Cremation	11924 E. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64133	816-353-6555	Feb-23	2,160	4,595	8,810
	Mt Moriah, Newcomer & Freeman Funeral	10507 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131	816-942-2004	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	9,910
	Muehlebach Funeral Care	6800 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64131	816-444-2060	Apr-22	2,730	2,850	7,370
	Neptune Society	8438 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114	816-361-2630	Oct-22	2,017	n/a	n/a
	Newcomer's Noland Road Chapel	509 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64050	816-252-8900	Feb-23	1,860	3,995	7,510
	Park Lawn Funeral Home	8251 Hillcrest Rd., Kansas City, MO 64138	816-523-1234	Feb-23	1,495	2,950	5,570
	Passantino Bros. Funeral Home	2117 Independence Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64124	816-471-2844	Mar-22	1,690	2,395	6,530
	Reflections Memorial Service	1624A Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111	816-561-0101	Jan-20	710	n/a	4,870
	Royer Funeral Home	1823 N. Blue Mills Rd., Independence, MO 64058	816-796-8600	Jan-23	990	3,690	7,055
	Savory and Sons Funeral Home	12101 East 43rd St., Kansas City, MO 64133	816-437-7766	Feb-23	1,270	1,195	5,175
	Sebbeto Funeral Home Inc.	901 E. 5th St., Kansas City, MO 64106	816-221-4400	Jan-18	1,575	3,995	4,945
	Serenity Funeral Home	1101 E. Bannister Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131	816-599-2939	Jun-22	1,495	1,695	6,000
	Signature Funerals	406-D East Bannister Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131	816-214-5174	Jul-22	1,395	2,135	6,755
	Souder Family Funeral Home	1333 N.E. Barry Road, Kansas City, MO 64145	816-436-2900	Jan-23	1,295	2,595	6,365
Speaks Suburban Chapel	18020 E. 39th St., Independence, MO 64055	816-373-3600	Oct-22	3,790	4,290	7,995	
Terrace Park Funeral Home & Cemetery	801 N.W. 108th St., Kansas City, MO 64155	816-734-5500	Oct-22	2,990	4,300	8,055	
Watkins Heritage Chapel	4000 Emmanuel Cleaver Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64130	816-861-3030	Feb-23	1,390	1,495	6,110	

Missouri	Funeral Home	Address	Telephone	GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral
North Excelsior Spgs Gladstone; Liberty; Kearney; Lawson; Lathrop; Parkville; Platte City; Richmond; Weston	Bailey & Cox Family Funeral	614 Clay Ave., Plattsburg, MO 64477	816-539-2162	Feb-23	2,795	3,420	6,800
	Bross & Spidle Funeral Home	214 Pennsylvania Ave., PO Bx 443, Lawson, MO 64062	816-296-0097	Jan-23	1,095	2,550	6,355
	Cashatt Legacy Funerals	7207 NW Maple Lane, Platte Woods, MO 64151	816-813-6510	Jan-23	895	1,995	6,360
	Charter Funerals - Northland	77 N.E. 72nd St., Gladstone, MO 64118	816-921-5555	Sep-21	1,270	2,095	5,185
	Newcomer's Church-Archer-Pasley Funeral	119 E. Franklin, Liberty, MO 64068	816-781-2000	Feb-23	1,860	3,995	7,510
	Fry-Bross & Spidle Funeral Home	208 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060	816-628-4411	Jan-23	1,095	2,550	6,355
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Excelsior Spgs	5951 E. MO Hwy 10, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024	816-903-8888	Oct-22	1,495	3,105	5,485
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Kearney	925 E. 92 Hwy, Kearney, MO 64060	816-903-8888	Oct-22	1,495	3,105	5,485
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Lawson	412 N. Raum St., Lawson, MO 64062	816-903-8888	Oct-22	1,495	3,105	5,485
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Liberty	1015 Hwy H, Liberty, MO 64068	816-407-8888	Oct-22	1,495	3,105	5,485
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Richmond	9502 Leathers Rd, Richmond, MO 64085	816-470-0077	Oct-22	1,495	3,105	5,485
	Hixson-Klein Funeral Home- Edgerton	303 Frank St., Edgerton, MO 64444	816-424-6481	Jan-23	1,695	2,395	4,895
	Hixson-Klein Funeral Home- Smithville	104 W. Church St., Smithville, MO 64089	816-424-6481	Jan-23	1,695	2,395	4,895
	Meyers Funeral Chapel - Northland	401 Main St., Parkville, MO 64152	816-741-0251	Mar-23	2,290	3,480	7,860
	Park Lawn Funeral Homes- Liberty	1640 N. State-Rt 291, Liberty, MO 64068	816-781-8228	Feb-23	1,495	2,950	5,570
	Pritchard-Bross & Spidle Funeral Home	217 W. Broadway Ave., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024	816-630-3131	Jan-23	1,095	2,550	6,355
	Rollins Funeral Home	1106 East Branch St., Platte City, MO 64079	816-858-2129	Oct-22	2,495	3,250	6,645
	Stith Funeral Home	901 Clinton St., Lathrop, MO 64465	816-740-4658	Jan-22	2,295	3,640	5,215
	Thurman Funeral Home - Richmond Chapel	507 East Main, Richmond, MO 64085	816-776-2233	Jan-22	2,895	3,145	5,805
	Vaughn Funeral Home	18905 State Route 45 N., Weston, MO 64098	816-386-2281	Oct-22	2,495	3,250	6,645
Newcomer's White Chapel Funeral Home	6600 N.E. Antioch Rd., Gladstone, MO 64119	816-452-8419	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	9,910	
East Side Lee's Summit; Grain Valley; Odessa; Buckner; Blue Springs	Chapel of Memories Funeral Home	30000 E. Valor Rd., Grain Valley, MO 64029	816-463-4030	Mar-23	2,195	2,395	7,660
	Cremation Society of KS and MO	831 NE Lakewood Blvd., Lee's Summit, MO 64064	816-373-9888	Sep-21	1,195	n/a	4,370
	Langsford Funeral Home	115 S.W. 3rd St., Lee's Summit, MO 64063	816-524-3700	Oct-22	2,590	2,590	6,690
	Meyers Funeral Chapel - Blue Springs	1600 West Main St., Blue Springs, MO 64015	816-229-3276	Mar-23	1,995	3,480	7,860
	Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home	306 S. Second St., Odessa, MO 64076	816-633-5524	Nov-22	2,275	3,840	6,380
	Royer Funeral Homes- Grain Valley	100 Royer Lane, Grain Valley, MO 64029	816-847-4441	Jan-23	990	3,690	7,055
	Royer Funeral Homes- Oak Grove	101 E. 15th St., Oak Grove, MO 64075	816-690-4441	Jan-23	990	3,690	7,055
	Speaks Chapel - Buckner	300 Adams St., Buckner, MO 64016	816-650-5555	Oct-22	3,790	4,290	7,395
	Atkinson Funeral Homes- Archie	104 W. Walnut St., Archie, MO 64725	816-293-5566	Dec-22	1,795	3,485	5,600
	Atkinson Funeral Homes- Harrisonville	600 Wall St., Harrisonville, MO 64701	816-380-3268	Dec-22	1,795	3,485	5,600
South Harrisonville; Archie; Belton; Raymore; Garden City; Drexel; Pleasant Hill	Complete Cremation	1505 Brookhart Drive, Harrisonville, MO 64701	816-631-0303	Mar-21	895	n/a	n/a
	Cullen Funeral Home	612 W. Foxwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083	816-322-5278	Oct-22	1,895	2,740	5,430
	Dickey Funeral Homes-Harrisonville	2401 E. Mechanic St., Harrisonville, MO 64701	816-884-6244	Jul-22	1,680	3,050	5,185
	Stanley-Edenburn Funeral Home	203 N. Armstrong St., Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	816-540-5550	Jan-23	2,295	3,305	5,800
	McGilley & George Funeral Home & Crematory	611 Chestnut St., Belton, MO 64012	816-322-2995	Feb-23	1,860	3,995	7,510
	Mullinax Funeral Home & Cremation	136 E Main St., Drexel, MO 64742	660-679-0009	Apr-22	1,500	1,995	3,625
	Wallace Funeral Home	422 Lake St., Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	816-987-2127	Feb-23	2,275	2,485	5,600

Kansas	Funeral Home	Address	Telephone	GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral
K-10 West Lawrence; DeSoto; Eudora	Cedar Crest Memorial Chapel	32665 Lexington Ave., De Soto, KS 66018	913-583-1002	Nov-22	1,995	2,200	7,970
	Chapel Oaks Cremation & Funeral Service	627 Monterey Way, Lawrence, KS 66049	785-841-3822	Jan-23	975	3,315	4,070
	Rumsey-Yost Funeral Home & Crematory	601 Indiana St., Lawrence, KS 66044	785-843-5111	Nov-22	2,575	4,145	6,365
	Warren-McElwain Mortuary- Eudora	1003 John L. Williams Dr., Eudora, KS 66025	785-542-3030	Aug-17	2,980	4,565	6,945
	Warren-McElwain Mortuary- Lawrence	120 W. 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044	785-843-1120	Aug-17	2,980	4,565	6,945
	The Amos Family Funeral Home	10901 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203	913-631-5566	Oct-22	2,875	3,875	6,970
	Charter Funerals Kansas Chapel	10250 Shawnee Msn Pkwy, Merriam, KS 66203	816-921-5555	Sep-21	1,270	2,095	5,185
	Cremation Center of Kansas City	4926 Johnson Dr., Mission, KS 66205	913-384-5566	Jan-22	1,195	n/a	n/a
	www.cremationcenterkc.com	Online only		Mar-21	895	n/a	n/a
	Cremation Society of KS & MO- Prairie Village	8837 Roe Ave., Prairie Village, KS 66207	913-383-9888	Sep-21	1,195	n/a	4,370
Central Johnson County	Cremation Society of KS & MO-Overland Park	14553 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223	913-392-9888	Sep-21	1,195	n/a	4,370
	Heartland Cremation & Burial Soc-Kansas	7700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Overland Pk., KS 66202	913-789-8998	Oct-22	1,195	1,790	4,220
	Johnson County Funeral Chapel	11200 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210	913-451-1860	Oct-22	3,180	4,995	8,755
	McGilley & Frye Funeral Hm & Crem	105 E. Loula St., Olathe, KS 66061	913-782-0582	Feb-23	2,160	4,595	8,810
	McGilley & Hoge Jo Co Memorial Chapel	8024 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66204	913-642-3565	Feb-23	2,560	5,195	9,910
	Mid States Cremation	Lenexa, KS 66285	913-815-8001	Mar-20	1,095	n/a	n/a
	Overland Park Funeral Chapel	8201 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-648-6224	Oct-22	2,795	4,995	8,055
	Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home & Crematory	14275 S. Blackbob Rd., Olathe, KS 66062	913-768-6777	Sep-22	2,045	3,040	6,075
	Porter Funeral Home & Crematory	8535 Monrovia, Lenexa, KS 66215	913-438-6444	Nov-22	2,597	2,993	7,906
	Chapel Hill-Butler Funeral Home	701 N. 94th St., Kansas City, KS 66112	913-334-3366	Feb-23	2,160	4,595	8,910
Kansas	George F. Porter & Sons Funeral Home	1835 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102	913-621-6400	Nov-22	2,397	2,993	6,921
	Highland Park Funeral Home & Crematory	4101 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102	913-371-0699	Jan-23	850	1,985	5,900
	Kansas City Funeral Directors	4880 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-262-6310	Jun-22	775	1,795	4,835
	Larkins & Garcia Funeral Care	1844 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102	913-371-7000	Feb-23	1,695	2,540	7,385
	Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chapel	2065 N. 5th St., Kansas City, KS 66101	913-371-5352	Mar-22	1,090	1,495	6,110
	Maple Hill Funeral Home & Cemetery	3300 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-831-3345	Oct-22	1,745	2,995	6,435
	Mrs. J.W. Jones Memorial Chapel	703 N. 10th St., Kansas City, KS 66102	913-321-0253	Feb-23	1,070	2,540	6,850
	Northern Star Mortuary	5029 Leavenworth Rd., Kansas City, KS 66104	913-400-3766	Feb-23	2,535	1,270	6,750
	Skradski Funeral Chapel	340 N. 6th St., Kansas City, KS 66101	913-371-1404	Apr-22	2,730	2,850	6,740
	Thatcher's Funeral Home	1520 N. 5th St., Kansas City, KS 66101	913-321-1211	Apr-20	1,090	1,695	6,255
I-70 & North Leavenworth; Lansing; Bonner Spgs Tonganoxie	Alden-Harrington Funeral Home	214 Oak St., Bonner Springs, KS 66012	913-422-4074	Jan-22	1,500	3,850	7,759
	Belden-Larkin Funeral Home	707 S. 6th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-682-2820	Nov-22	2,700	2,850	5,300
	Charter Funerals - Sunset	16731 Springdale Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-682-5400	Jun-15	1,270	1,895	3,795
	Davis Funeral Chapel	531 Shawnee St., Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-682-5523	Jan-22	2,175	2,650	4,875
	Quisenberry Funeral Home	604 E. 4th St., Tonganoxie, KS 66086	913-846-2740	Jan-18	2,250	4,275	6,515
	R.L. Leintz Funeral Home	4701 10th Ave., Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-351-0200	Jan-18	2,500	2,450	5,200
	Bruce Funeral Homes- Gardner	106 S. Center St., Gardner, KS 66030	913-856-7111	Feb-22	3,340	3,630	6,235
	Bruce Funeral Homes-Spring Hill	712 S. Webster St., Spring Hill, KS 66083	913-592-2244	Feb-22	3,340	3,630	6,235
	Dengel & Sons Mortuary- Louisburg	120 S. Broadway St., Louisburg, KS 66053	913-837-4310	Jan-22	2,295	2,995	6,500
	Dengel & Sons Mortuary- Paola	305 N. Pearl St., Paola, KS 66071	913-294-2372	Jan-22	2,295	2,995	6,500
Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home	203 Main St., PO Bx 430, Osawatomie, KS 66064	913-755-2114	Oct-19	3,000	2,940	5,780	
	Lamb-Roberts-Price Funeral Home- Baldwin City	712 9th St., Baldwin City, KS 66006	785-594-3644	Dec-20	1,890	2,845	5,195

Indigent, from page 1

Keara's application for financial aid.

Another of Keara's hopes was to see Jonathan's body and obtain a lock of his hair, his fingerprint, or some other physical memento. I pointed her to Muehlebach Funeral Care, which performs the county's cremations for indigent residents, urging her to contact the facility quickly.

Word came from the county that the application for county-paid cremation was approved. The request to view Jonathan's body, however, was denied. County policy was that Keara would have to pay the full cremation price, \$2,700, and an additional \$250 to view the body. The funeral home said it was bound by its contract with the county, which requires provision of "no additional services" for indigent after-death care. Jackson County contracts with Muehlebach to provide its indigent cremations at a cost of \$710 each.

The family's experience

Throughout our contact, Keara spoke of praying for the assistance to come through and of feeling Jonathan's presence and communicating with him through prayer.

"I want to honor him," she said, "and be a rock for those who need me to be. This is such a strange world now without him to call up."

I recommended a book by Sherrie Dillard titled *I'm Still With You: Communicate, Heal & Evolve With Your Loved One on the Other Side*.

Upon learning that she and her sons would not be permitted to view Jonathan's body, Keara was thrown into another phase of her grief.

"That hurt me in a brand new way," she said. "I really wanted to say goodbye to his body. I wanted to be the last person who was with him. I wanted it to be someone who really loved him."

Keara acquired Jonathan's ashes and I interviewed her Feb. 13 at her restaurant. She had the box of ashes. Keara was eager to explain the back story of Jonathan's death.

"He had a serious motorcycle accident last year," she said. "He was already a drug addict on methamphetamine."

The hospital that treated him for the accident gave him fentanyl for pain, his first experience with the drug. After that he was hospitalized seven or eight times for raw-fentanyl overdoses.

"The hospital should never have given a drug addict such a powerful drug for pain," Keara insisted. "He was scheduled to go into in-patient [rehab] treatment on Jan. 23, six days after he died of an overdose of fentanyl. I really believe he would be alive today if the hospital hadn't given him fentanyl."

Placing her hand on the box of ashes on the table, she said, "I want to be that crazy wife that reaches over and touches her husband. I'm very thankful that we never went through with the divorce..."

Asked where she could find peace at this stage, she said, "Honestly, the fact that he's not hurting anymore like he was, that he's not angry any more, not so negative to the world, that he's with God. He's finally back to where he wanted to be." □

More on Jackson County indigence policy

When Muehlebach Funeral Care said that Keara Scott could not view the body of her husband, Jonathan Scott, because Muehlebach's contract with Jackson County forbids "any additional services" for indigent, county-paid cremations, it was the truth. Posting a free, one-line death notice in the *Kansas City Star* and posting an obituary on the funeral home's website are other extra services denied.

Julie Chrisman, administrative assistant to the Jackson County public administrator, explained the policy in an email to FCA-GKC board member Steve Nicely.

"I explained to Keara that if she wanted to view the body and get a lock of [Jonathan's] hair, then we could not go through with the county cremation because our program is for indigents, people who had no next of kin at all, and for bodies that have been abandoned," she explained. "The county can't pay for cremation and then [have] family pay out any money for what you mentioned. If that was the case, then the family did not need us."

Chrisman said that the county goes so far as to check whether Go Fund Me solicitations have been established. If so, the family would have to reimburse the county for the cremation.

Ultimately, Jackson County taxpayers pay for the cremations of truly indigent situations and nothing further. Chrisman said that at the time of Jonathan Scott's death in mid-January, the county had authorized the cremations of 153 indigent bodies at Muehlebach since April 1, 2022. At \$710 each (which the county pays to Muehlebach), the taxpayers' burden was \$108,630. □

Moving but want to stay in touch?

If you receive our printed FCA-GKC newsletter and have moved from the mailing address we have on file, let us know and we'll make sure you remain on the list—no matter where you live.



Just email fca.gkc@gmail.com or leave a phone message at 816-561-6322. □



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Survey, from page 1

not send us their GPLs, even after multiple requests Our volunteers then pay them a visit and ask. The provider can't decline without breaking the law.

Only 20 of the 114 funeral homes in this year's survey required personal visits. Half actually posted their GPLs on their websites, a wonderful public service. The four-member FTC is weighing whether to mandate that all funeral providers post their GPLs online. The national FCA board members testified in favor of this change. The price of virtually anything is available online these days, and funeral prices should be included.

All of the GPLs we collected were sent to FCA-GKC treasurer David Johnson, a professional accountant. David entered all of those numbers in a spreadsheet according to location, and calculated averages and price ranges in each category. Other board members involved in the process were Amy Simmons, Jacque Amweg, Steve Nicely, and Diane Etzel-Wise. □

Gratitude to our donors

With no membership fees and virtually no charges for any of our services, our FCA-GKC board is especially grateful for \$5,959 in donations received during the six months since our last newsletter. We note with pride that four of the 13 donors listed below are our own board members or former members.

The board also expresses special thanks for a \$4,000 contribution from the Matteuzzi Family Foundation, headed by Mike Matteuzzi. Mike is a successful Overland Park-based trial lawyer who finds meaning in his Contemporary Spirituality series of webinars and in-person productions featuring ecumenical wisdom teachers from the past and present. FCA-GKC board members David Johnson and Steve Nicely count Mike as a friend. For Mike's online information, visit www.contemporaryspirituality.net/upcoming-events. ►



President, from page 1

The author asks some questions that may seem far-fetched to many of us, but may be realistic topics we should consider:

- Do I want to be a hologram (a three-dimensional image that appears to shift and move realistically) after I'm gone?
- Should anyone be able to access my social media post after I'm gone?
- Who has the rights to my hologram, social media, etc.?
- What if I posthumously "went viral"?

In the chapter titled *How Will You Spend Eternity?*, Harrington examines innovative adaptations and alternatives to burial and cremation, including aquamation (water cremation), human composting, burial forests, burial pods, memorial reefs, and floating cemeteries.

I will continue talking about this book in our fall newsletter as we prepare for our annual program in November. Some of Harrington's information will intersect with our program topic, perspectives on the afterlife. Until then, keep reading and planning. □

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