

FCA REPORT

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Prices rise for most-popular funeral options

Service	2018 average price	Change since 2016	Price range
Standard funeral	\$5,873	+0.73%	\$3,540 to \$9,655
Immediate burial	\$3,814	+6.10%	\$942 to \$5,990
Direct cremation	\$1,829	+3.20%	\$675 to \$3,190
Urban CPI* change		+4.61%	

*consumer price index

After months of work by the FCA-GKC Funeral Price Survey Committee, our biennial survey is ready. The committee collected more than 1,000 prices from 114 area funeral homes. The information we gathered can be condensed into these numbers.

By Steve Nicely, FCA-GKC Secretary

During the past two years, when consumer prices increased almost 5 percent, the average price of a **standard funeral** increased less than one percent. That is welcome news to those preferring the comforting rituals of standard funerals including embalming, visitation, and a funeral service. The \$5,873 average price does not include a casket or cemetery costs, which could easily add \$3,000 or more to the total. Though standard funerals were once the choice of most families, now a majority of consumers are making less-costly choices.

Immediate burial was the only basic option that exceeded the rise in consumer prices, with an increase of 6.1 percent. At an average of \$3,814, immediate burial shaves \$2,000 from the standard funeral average by eliminating embalming, visitation, and a funeral service. However, immediate burial still requires cemetery expenses. The \$3,814 average price does include the lowest-priced casket offered by funeral homes.

Direct cremation, with an average price of \$1,829, is the least-costly method of body disposal. It involves transporting the body to a funeral home, placing it in a container of fiberboard or cardboard, cremating it, and returning the ashes to the family. No embalming, visitation, or service are involved unless consumers choose to add them.

Cremation now is the choice of most people here and nationwide, and it makes cemetery expenses optional. Many cemeteries have columbaria where

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2 free social work contact hours! Learn the truth about body & organ donation

By Marci Michnick, LMSW, FCA-GKC Volunteer



Presenters at the fall FCA-GKC annual meeting will include, from left: Barth Wright, Megan Maciel, and Dale Abrahamson.

Have you ever wondered about organ donation or whole-body donation? There can be a lot of mystery and confusion surrounding the topics: Can I register for both organ donation and whole-body donation? How do I register? What could exclude me from qualifying as a donor? Who arranges after-death transportation and other details?

To help answer these questions and more, we have enlisted some local experts to address the myths and explain the realities. Join us from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 2, for the FCA-GKC annual meeting to learn more about organ and body donation. This informative event will take place at the Kauffman Conference Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Mo.

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Hurting from a loss? Grief support helps

By Jacque Amweg, LCSW, LCSW, FCA-GKC Board Member

Grief is a natural response to loss. It requires giving ourselves some time to go through the experience. If we have a significant relationship with someone, we can expect to be significantly affected by that person's death, even if the death is expected.

Grief responses are as individual as each person is. It is common for a variety of reactions—emotional, mental, spiritual, physical, and social—to be present with grieving. Grievers may experience some or all of these, or other, reactions:

Numbness ~ Sadness ~ Memory difficulty
Headaches ~ Chest pain ~ Anger ~ Loneliness
Questioning of faith ~ Guilt ~ Crying
Isolation or withdrawal ~ Anxiety ~ Relief
Questioning of reasons for the death
Loss of meaning in life ~ Depression

Societal expectations often influence how we understand our own grief. Sometimes other people imply that we should “get over it” and get right back to life as it was. Sometimes they don't provide the support we feel we need or deserve. (Many people find it hard to be around others who are in pain, so their response may be to try to cheer the griever rather than simply being present to the grief.)

Built-in or “natural” support systems are very important to moving through the grief process. Most people will manage grief with their current or evolving support system (family, friends, faith community, supportive colleagues, and so on). But 7 to 15 percent of people have complications in grief and would benefit from *more formal grief support*.

As a grief support counselor, I have received many calls over the years from people who have had a death in the family or from a family member who is concerned about someone grieving. They share comments such as, “I'm crying all the time and I can't think of anything else.” “I have not cried yet. Is there something wrong with me?” “My family member is taking it hard and is very depressed.”

These questions may come soon after the death and don't usually indicate problematic grieving. Then my role is to reassure grievers that what they are experiencing is a natural reaction. I like to imagine a piece of clay formed in the shape of the relationship. The shape and size of that piece of clay also represents the shape and size of the grief.

If people are struggling in grief, I encourage them to explore whether help is needed in one of these three areas:

Self-care. This is different for each person. Is there a need to improve eating, exercise, and sleeping? Including meaningful and creative activity in the day is important. Schedule an appointment with a physician if there are any concerns.

Expression of grief. We all express grief in our own way. Not everyone feels comfortable with talking, and not everyone expresses grief with tears. Maybe it's talking or tears, but maybe the way to express grief is by writing,



Jacque Amweg



building something, scrapbooking, art, poetry, music, creating a scholarship, or engaging in physical activity. Unexpressed grief is not healthy emotionally or physically.

Staying connected. For some people it's natural to be around others who offer support. Some people, though, may begin to isolate themselves and avoid others, maybe out of the fear of “breaking down” or being misunderstood. Time alone is healing and important, but maintaining connections is also important. Phone calls with friends and family or coffee with a friend can help. Spending time with people who are understanding and can be present with your pain is very healing.

When more is needed

Some factors complicate grief and can make it more likely that the griever needs formal support. These include:

- Loss of a child • Suicide
- Traumatic death circumstances
- Childhood separation anxiety
- A dependent relationship with the deceased
- Lack of resilience or adaptability
- A conflicted or estranged relationship
- Sudden death • Multiple losses
- A “disenfranchised” loss, when the death is stigmatized or the loss is not recognized
- Severe mental illness • Childhood loss of a parent

When hospice services are used at the end of a person's life, the hospice provides grief support when needed for loved ones of the patient. Hospice agencies are a good resource for finding individual grief counseling or grief support groups.

If a hospice was not involved, consider seeking a therapist who specializes in grief support. *Psychology Today* has a searchable database for finding therapists in any location with any imaginable specialization. Visit www.psychologytoday.com and look for “Find a therapist.”

Solace House is a good resource in our area for family grief support. □

Jacque Amweg is a grief counselor at Kansas City Hospice.

Your donor support needed

The board of FCA-GKC expresses sincere gratitude to the following donors for \$320 in support during the past six months:

Gerald Carley
E. and B.H. Cummings
William E. and A. Patricia Ross
Doris Yonker

Our board recognizes that it is falling short in necessary fundraising efforts and is attempting to address the issue. The recent level of participation is not enough to sustain us. We have a current balance of \$2,988. That should be enough to cover newsletter and funeral price survey printing and mailing expenses this fall, but we need your help going forward.

FCA-GKC is an all-volunteer, nonprofit, public-service organization. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Frank Cockrell, President, FCA-GKC

Survey, from page 1

consumers may purchase niches in walls inside or outdoors for ashes. Names and dates are inscribed on covers and recorded in the cemetery's records. Other families scatter ashes in special places or keep them for memorial services at a later date. The chief disadvantage of cremation is the large amount of energy consumed in the cremation process and its negative effect on the environment.

The prices charged by each of the 114 funeral homes in the survey appear on pages 5, 6, and 7. They reflect a wide range of choices in each of the three types of funeral services. For instance, the highest immediate-burial price is six times higher than the lowest in our findings. The highest direct cremation is nearly five times higher than the lowest. The highest standard funeral is nearly three times higher than the lowest.

Not appearing in this newsletter are the prices funeral homes charge for individual services such as embalming, body transport, visitation, vehicle rental, etc. Those prices for all 114 funeral homes are available on the FCA-GKC website, funeralskc.org. Here are the area-wide averages for each of the services:

Averages of individual services

Basic services	\$2,131
Embalming	\$815
Visitation	\$423
Funeral service	\$520
Hearse	\$413
Limousine	\$347
Graveside service	\$397
Body preparation	\$320

One of the individual services, titled "basic services" on funeral home general price lists, is rather nebulous. This is an amount that the Federal Trade Commission allows funeral homes to charge for "overhead" expenses. Basic services fees in the survey range from a low of \$1,295 to a

Annual, from page 1

Our panel of speakers will include professionals representing two area medical schools with whole-body donation programs—the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences (KCU)—along with the Midwest Transplant Network (MTN), a federally designated not-for-profit organ procurement organization serving Kansas and the western two-thirds of Missouri.

Megan Maciel, LCSW, community engagement coordinator at MTN, will teach us about organ donation. Megan is a licensed clinical social worker who's passionate about providing education on the importance of organ, eye, and tissue donation. Her role also provides her the opportunity to cultivate stories from donor families and recipients.

Joining us from KUMC will be Dale Abrahamson, PhD, chair of the Anatomy and Cell Biology Department, and Patricia Yewell, who coordinates the Willed Body Program. Abrahamson has overseen the Willed Body Program since 1998, ensuring that the program provides the utmost respect, dignity, and appreciation to donors and their families. Yewell has been with KUMC's program for 1 1/2 years and has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer for more than 20 years. Working with the Willed Body Program at KU enables her to make a difference for others by coordinating the invaluable learning opportunities that whole-body donation provides to students.

Representing KCU's Gift Body Program will be Barth Wright, PhD, chair of anatomy and professor of anatomy at KCU, and Felicia Harris, gift body coordinator. Harris has worked with the gift program for 18 years and is proud that KCU treats its donors like patients.

"We want students to know that this is their first patient," Harris said. "We always work with a very high level of ethics."

KCU has recently started using a new preservation method that makes bodies more lifelike, providing a student learning environment that is more like surgery.

Be sure to join us on Nov. 2 to learn more. The event is free and open to the public. Social workers will receive two contact hours. Register by visiting www.funeralskc.org, emailing fca.gkc@gmail.com, or calling 816-561-6322. □

Marci Michnick, LMSW, is a social worker in the Oncology Infusion Clinic at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

high of \$4,195.

Our team took great care to double and triple check the entries to ensure accuracy. When you review the dates of the price lists on the chart, you'll notice that some funeral homes have not updated their prices since our 2016 survey and that some figures are missing. We can only report what we are given. We also must understand that funeral homes can change their prices at any time without notice. □

Live-streaming of funerals

By Jacque Amweg, FCA-GKC Board Member

Many of us had the recent experience of seeing two live-streamed funerals of famous public figures, Sen. John McCain and Aretha Franklin. I haven't heard final numbers for the size of the television audiences, but these days it is not unusual for us to be long-distance participants in such celebrations of life.

The funerals of celebrities can attract massive television audiences. Princess Diana's funeral was seen by 2.5 billion, Ronald Reagan's by 35.7 million, Michael Jackson's by 3 billion, and Margaret Thatcher's by 4 million. We feel somehow connected to some public figures. It can be inclusive and meaningful to watch their live-streamed funerals.

What about the rest of us? There is a gradually growing trend toward live-streaming as a choice for our funeral planning, too—not for a public presentation, but to include friends and relatives unable to attend in person. Most of us don't anticipate the kind of numbers mentioned above, but there is more and more often a place for live-streamed funerals in our mobile and dispersed society.

Changes in technology have influenced our funeral options for years. Families have been bringing home audio- and video-recorded remembrances of the ceremony since the technology has existed. Live streaming adds an additional function. Besides providing a recording of the service for later, it allows us to "be there" in real time even when we are thousands of miles away.

There are pros and cons to consider when choosing whether to live-stream a funeral. The experience will never replace in-person attendance, but it's the next best option. It is secure and accessed with a password given to those who want to participate with an internet connection. It can provide a much-needed sense of presence with the deceased and with mourners as they grieve.

Concerns about live-streaming include issues that come up when using any technology. Participants may not feel comfortable with it if they are not tech-savvy. Occasional glitches in signals and equipment on either end can be frustrating. It could seem isolating to those watching at a distance if they don't have in-person support at this difficult time.

It is unclear how many funeral homes in Greater Kansas City offer streaming services. When it is available, it may involve an additional charge or it may be included in the total cost of the funeral. Some funeral homes have the required equipment and others contract with outside providers. If live streaming is important to you, it should definitely be on the list of questions to ask funeral providers when seeking their services. □

The big picture

By Frank Cockrell
FCA-GKC President



Payable-on-death accounts

When you look at our new survey of funeral prices in this area, you can understand why funerals can be so worrisome. The average cost of a standard funeral here is \$5,870, not counting a casket and cemetery expenses. That's a major purchase in most households, and funeral operators expect to be paid in full at the time of need.

But somewhere in each of our newsletters, FCA-GKC reminds you that we recommend *preplanning but not prepaying* for funerals. Why?

We answer that with questions: What if you move? What if you change your mind? What if the funeral home is sold or goes out of business? What if you can't make the payments? What if someone raids your account?

In short, prepaid funerals can be restrictive and can make you vulnerable.

Instead we advise opening a "payable-on-death" savings account at a bank or credit union, naming a trusted relative or friend who agrees to function as the beneficiary. You visit a funeral director, decide what you want for the funeral you're planning, and deposit the estimated cost in the account. When you die, the beneficiary withdraws the money, makes the arrangements, and pays for the services you've chosen. These payable-on-death accounts are also known as Totten trusts.

Rather than being restrictive, a payable-on-death account offers flexibility. You can withdraw the money any time you get in a bind and replace it later. You can open and close the account at any time. The named account beneficiary may be changed at will and cannot withdraw the funds until you die. Any interest generated in the account remains there. The funds are available to be spent anywhere; they are not tied to a particular location or funeral home or funeral plan.

Are there disadvantages to payable-on-death accounts? Sure. The account beneficiary could become ill and unable to follow your wishes. The account could have too much or not enough money to do the job. Not every circumstance can be anticipated. That's when we react as best we can. Trusted relationships are the basis of such accounts, and it's important for both parties to understand these contingencies ahead of time.

The information contained in our newest funeral price survey offers lots of flexibility for changing circumstances. We see a wide range of prices charged for similar services. We can spend \$8,000 for a standard funeral or \$4,000 for an immediate burial or \$2,000 for a direct cremation. And we can choose from a wide range in each category. That's flexibility. □

FCA-GKC 2018 Area Survey of Funeral Home Prices



This chart contains prices for three basic types of services (and their average area prices):

- Standard Funerals (\$5,873) prices include fees for transporting the body, body preparation, embalming, visitation, funeral service, hearse, limousine, graveside service and a basic services fee. Caskets and cemetery costs are extra.
- Immediate Burial (\$3,814) prices eliminate embalming, visitation and funeral service, but includes the cost of the lowest priced casket offered. Cemetery costs are extra.
- Direct Cremation (\$1,829) skips embalming, visitation and funeral service, but includes an alternate container, such as fiberboard or cardboard.

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

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Kansas	Funeral Home (Ownership)	GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral	Standard Funeral	% Change	Telephone	Directory
K-10 West Lawrence; De Soto; Eudora	Cedar Crest Memorial Chapel (Local)	8/18	1,295	3,950	5,825	**		913-583-1002	32665 Lexington Ave., De Soto, KS 66018
	Chapel Oaks Crem & Fnr'l Serv-Lawrence (Local)	1/13	1,400	3,315	3,810	**		785-841-3822	627 Monterey Way, Lawrence, KS 66049
	Greatful Gathering Funeral Hm & Crem (Local)	7/18	1,090	2,972	5,015	0.0	0.0	785-727-4444	2004 E. 23rd St., Lawrence, KS 66046
	Rumsey-Yost Funeral Hm & Crematory (Local)	6/18	2,325	4,540	5,800	0.0	0.0	785-843-5111	601 Indiana St., Lawrence, KS 66044
	Warren-McElwain Mortuary- Eudora (Local)	8/17	2,980	5,660	6,945	6,845	1.5	785-542-3030	1003 John L. Williams Dr., Eudora, KS 66025
	Warren-McElwain Mortuary- Lawrence (Local)	8/17	2,980	5,660	6,945	6,845	1.5	785-843-1120	120 W. 13th St., Lawrence, KS 66044
	The Amos Family Funeral Home (Local)	4/18	2,675	5,209	6,995	6,370	9.8	913-631-5566	10901 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203
	Ara Cremation (Local)	12/17	1,080	n/a	*	**		913-232-7334	5695 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS 66207
Central Johnson County	Charter Funerals Kansas Chapel (Local)	4/15	1,270	2,270	4,650	4,650	0.0	816-921-5555	10250 Shawnee Msn Pkwy,Merriam, KS 66203
	Church Funeral Associates (Local)	1/18	995	2,800	5,975	4,235	41.1	913-789-9600	5815 Nieman Road, Shawnee, KS 66203
	Cremation Center of Kansas City (Local)	11/17	995	n/a	*	**		913-384-5566	4926 Johnson Dr., Mission, KS 66205
	www.cremationcenterkc.com (Local)	6/18	775	n/a	*	**		913-384-5566	Online only
	Cremation Society of KS & MO (Local)	10/17	1,195	n/a	4,370	4,030	8.4	913-383-9888	8837 Roe Ave., Prairie Village, KS 66207
	Heartland Crem & Burial Soc-Kansas (Local)	7/18	1,095	2,250	3,950	3,700	6.8	913-789-8998	7700 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Overland Park, KS 66202
	Johnson County Funeral Chapel (Signature)	3/16	2,780	5,085	7,595	7,520	1.0	913-451-1860	11200 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210
	McGilley & Frye Funeral Hm & Crem (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,005	7,855	1.9	913-782-0582	105 E. Loula St., Olathe, KS 66061
	McGilley & Hoge Jo Co Mem'l Chapel (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,705	8,555	1.8	913-642-3565	8024 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66204
	www.midstatescremation.com (Local)	1/18	695	n/a	*	**		913-815-8001	Online only
	Overland Park Funeral Chapel (Signature)	3/16	2,780	5,085	7,005	6,930	1.1	913-648-6224	8201 Metcalf, Overland Park, KS 66204
	Penwell-Gabel Funeral Hm & Crematory (Local)	10/17	3,145	3,895	5,400	5,330	1.3	913-768-6777	14275 Blackbob Rd., Olathe, KS 66062
	Porter Funeral Home & Crematory (Local)	2/18	2,197	3,388	6,836	6,221	9.9	913-438-6444	8535 Monrovia, Lenexa, KS 66215
	Kansas City Kansas	Chapel Hill-Butler Funeral Home (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,090	7,405	7,255	2.1	913-334-3366
George F. Porter & Sons Funeral Home (Local)		6/14	1,997	3,092	5,136	5,136	0.0	913-621-6400	1835 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102
Highland Park Funeral Hm & Crematory (Local)		1/18	795	2,225	5,145	4,365	17.9	913-371-0699	4101 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102
Kansas City Funeral Directors (Local)		5/18	750	2,590	3,825	3,875	(1.3)	913-262-6310	4880 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, KS 66106
Larkin & Garcia Funeral Care (Local)		4/18	1,145	2,785	4,960	**		913-371-7000	1844 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, KS 66102
Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chpl (Local)		8/18	1,090	2,295	5,655	5,070	11.5	913-371-5352	2065 N. 5th St., Kansas City, KS 66101
Maple Hill Funeral Hm & Cemetery (Local)		1/16	1,770	3,645	5,970	5,970	0.0	913-831-3345	3300 Shawnee Dr., Kansas City, KS 66106
Mary Butler Meyers Funeral Home (Local)		7/17	1,410	3,230	6,025	6,045	(0.3)	913-334-6300	6300 Parallel Pkwy., Kansas City, KS 66102
Mrs. J.W. Jones Memorial Chapel (Local)		7/14	995	1,945	5,590	5,590	0.0	913-321-0253	703 N. 10th St., Kansas City, KS 66102
Northern Star Mortuary (Local)		3/17	2,525	2,471	5,510	5,045	9.2	913-400-3766	5029 Leavenworth Rd., Kansas City, KS 66104
Skradski Funeral Chapel (Local)		3/18	2,450	3,840	5,280	4,740	11.4	913-371-1404	340 N. 6th St., Kansas City, KS 66101
Slider Funeral Home (Local)		1/12	900	942	4,750	5,070	(6.3)	913-573-2020	1734 Washington Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66102
Thatcher's Funeral Home (Local)		10/16	1,090	2,490	5,655	5,015	12.8	913-321-1211	1520 N. 5th St., Kansas City, KS 66101

FCA-GKC 2018 Area Survey of Funeral Home Prices

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Kansas		Funeral Home (Ownership)		GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral	Standard Funeral	% Change	Telephone	Directory
I-70 & North Leavenworth; Lansing; Bonner Springs; Tonganoxie	Alden-Harrington Funeral Home (Local)	11/16	1,250	3,858	6,460	6,460	0.0	913-422-4074	214 Oak St., Bonner Springs, KS 66012		
	Belden-Larkin Funeral Home (Local)	1/18	2,500	2,250	5,200	5,200	(5.7)	913-682-2820	707 S. 6th St., Leavenworth, KS 66048		
	Charter Funerals - Sunset (Local)	5/10	1,195	2,920	3,745	3,745	(1.3)	913-682-5400	16731 Springdale Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048		
	Davis Funeral Chapel (Local)	1/18	1,975	4,000	4,475	4,475	0.0	913-682-5523	531 Shawnee St., Leavenworth, KS 66048		
	Quisenberry Funeral Home (Local)	1/18	2,325	4,275	6,515	6,515	15.4	913-846-2740	604 E. 4th St., Tonganoxie, KS 66086		
	R.L. Leintz Funeral Home (Local)	1/18	2,500	3,350	5,100	4,900	4.1	913-351-0200	4701 10th Ave., Leavenworth, KS 66048		
South of K10 Baldwin City; Gardner; Paola; Louisburg; Spring Hill; Osawatomie	Bruce Funeral Homes- Gardner (Local)	11/17	3,135	4,385	5,630	5,630	(0.9)	913-856-7111	106 S. Center St., Gardner, KS 66030		
	Bruce Funeral Homes-Spring Hill (Local)	11/17	3,135	4,385	5,630	5,630	(0.9)	913-592-2244	712 S. Webster St., Spring Hill, KS 66083		
	Dengel & Sons Mortuary- Louisburg (Local)	3/17	2,975	4,175	6,020	**	913-837-4310	120 S. Broadway St., Louisburg, KS 66053			
	Dengel & Sons Mortuary- Osawatomie (Local)	3/17	2,975	4,175	6,020	**	913-755-6500	605 O'Neal Ave., Osawatomie, KS 66064			
	Dengel & Sons Mortuary- Paola (Local)	3/17	2,975	4,175	6,020	**	913-294-2372	305 N. Pearl St., Paola, KS 66071			
	Eddy-Birchard Funeral Home (Local)	10/15	2,165	4,015	4,840	4,840	0.0	913-755-2114	203 Main St., PO Bx 430, Osawatomie, KS 66064		
	Lamb-Roberts Funeral Hm- Baldwin City (Local)	4/17	2,870	5,115	6,530	**	785-594-3644	712 9th St., Baldwin City, KS 66006			
Missouri KC Metro Kansas City; Grandview; Raytown; Independence	Assurance Cremation Society (local)	9/17	1,095	n/a	*	**		816-941-2273	860 W. Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64156		
	Carson-Speaks Chapel (Local)	11/17	3,190	4,665	6,785	6,185	9.7	816-252-7900	1501 W. Lexington Ave., Independence, MO 64052		
	Charter Funerals - Blue Ridge (Local)	4/15	1,270	2,270	4,650	4,650	0.0	816-921-5555	5000 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133		
	Cremation Society of KS & MO (Local)	10/17	1,195	n/a	4,370	4,030	8.4	816-822-9888	5561 N.W. Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64154		
	Duane E. Harvey Funeral Directors (Local)	2/15	995	1,945	5,590	5,590	0.0	816-763-4042	9100 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138		
	E.S. Eley & Sons Funeral Chapel (Local)	4/18	1,050	1,845	5,170	4,965	4.1	816-924-8700	4707 E. Truman Rd., Kansas City, MO 64127		
	Elite Funeral Chapel (Local)	4/08	995	n/a	4,675	4,475	4.5	816-765-0141	11525 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64134		
	Floral Hills Funeral Home (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,705	8,555	1.8	816-353-1218	7000 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64133		
	Golden Gate Funeral & Crem Serv (???)	4/17	795	2,295	5,195	**	816-255-3676	2800 East 18th St., Kansas City, MO 64127			
	Heartland Crem & Burial Soc-Raytown (Local)	7/18	1,095	2,250	3,950	3,700	6.8	816-313-1677	6113 Blue Ridge Blvd., Raytown, MO 64133		
	Lawrence A. Jones & Sons Funeral Chpl (Local)	8/18	1,090	2,295	5,655	5,070	11.5	816-921-1800	1800 E. Linwood Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64109		
	Longview Funeral Hm & Cemetery (Signature)	2/18	2,335	4,465	6,825	5,730	19.1	816-761-6272	12700 S. Raytown Rd., Kansas City, MO 64140		
	Louis Memorial Chapel (Local)	1/16	2,608	5,605	6,906	6,906	0.0	816-361-5211	6830 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64131		
	McGilley Antioch Chapel (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,705	8,555	1.8	816-453-7700	3325 N.E. Vivion Road, Kansas City, MO 64119		
	McGilley & George Funeral Hm & Crem (SCI)	4/18	2,570	5,090	7,205	7,055	2.1	816-966-0250	12913 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030		
	McGilley Memorial Chapel (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	9,605	9,455	1.6	816-942-6180	12301 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145		
	McGilley Memorial - Midtown Chapel (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	7,405	7,255	2.1	816-753-6200	20 W. Linwood Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64111		
	McGilley & Sheil Funeral Hm & Crem(SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,005	7,855	1.9	816-353-6555	11924 E. 47th St., Kansas City, MO 64133		
	Mt Moriah,Newcomer & Freeman F.Hm (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	9,655	9,455	2.1	816-942-2004	10507 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131		
	Muehlebach Funeral Care (Local)	3/18	2,500	3,820	7,040	6,810	3.4	816-444-2060	6800 Troost Ave., Kansas City, MO 64131		
	Neptune Society (Local)	4/18	2,017	n/a	*	**		816-361-2630	8438 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64114		
	Noland Road Chapel (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	6,305	7,855	(19.7)	816-252-8900	509 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64050		
	Park Lawn Funeral Homes-South Chapel (Local)	3/17	1,295	n/a	4,875	4,630	5.3	816-523-1234	8251 Hillcrest Rd., Kansas City, MO 64138		
	Passantino Bros. Funeral Home (Local)	6/17	1,590	2,090	5,200	5,185	0.3	816-471-2844	2117 Independence Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64124		
	Reflections Memorial Service (Local)	1/16	675	n/a	4,870	4,670	4.3	816-561-0101	14 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111		
Royer Funeral Hm (Was New Salem) (Local)	1/18	990	2,993	5,490	5,390	1.9	816-796-8600	1823 N. Blue Mills Rd., Independence, MO 64058			
Sebbeto Fnrnl Home Inc. (Local)	??	1,575	3,995	4,945	5,355	(7.7)	816-221-4400	901 E. 5th St., Kansas City, MO 64106			
Signature Funerals (Local)	10/16	995	3,335	6,305	6,505	(3.1)	816-214-5174	406-D East Bannister Rd., Kansas City, MO 64131			
Souder Family Funeral Home (Local)	5/18	1,295	2,990	5,815	5,715	1.7	816-436-2900	1333 N.E. Barry Road, Kansas City, MO 64145			
Speaks Chapels - Suburban (Local)	11/17	3,190	4,665	6,785	6,385	6.3	816-373-3600	18020 E. 39th St., Independence, MO 64055			
Terrace Park Funeral Hm & Cem (Signature)	3/16	2,780	5,085	7,925	6,930	14.4	816-734-5500	801 N.W. 108th St., Kansas City, MO 64155			
Watkins Heritage Chapel (Local)	8/18	1,090	2,295	5,655	5,070	11.5	816-861-3030	4000 Em'l Cleaver Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64130			

Missouri	Funeral Home (Ownership)	GPL Date	Direct Cremation	Immediate Burial	Standard Funeral	Standard Funeral	% Change	Telephone	Directory	
North Excelsior Springs Gladstone; Liberty; Kearney; Lawson; Lathrop; Parkville;	Bailey & Cox Family Funeral (Local)	7/17	2,595	3,665	5,705	**		913-539-2612	614 Clay Ave., Plattsburg, MO 64477	
	Bross & Spidle Funeral Hm & Crem Serv (Local)	6/18	995	3,345	5,210	4,730	10.1	816-296-0097	214 Pennsylvania Ave., PO Bx 443, Lawson, MO 64062	
	Cashatt Family Funerals (Local)	1/18	995	2,790	*	5,140		816-587-8200	7516 N.W. Prairie View Rd., Platte Woods, MO 64151	
	Charter Funerals - Northland (Local)	4/15	1,270	2,270	4,650	4,650	0.0	816-921-5555	77 N.E. 72nd St., Gladstone, MO 64118	
	Church-Archer-Pasley Funeral Home (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	6,305	8,555	(26.3)	816-781-2000	119 E. Franklin, Liberty, MO 64068	
	Fry-Bross & Spidle Funeral H & Crem Srv (Local)	6/18	995	3,345	5,210	4,730	10.1	816-628-4411	208 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060	
	Hidden Valley Fun'l Hm - Excelsior Sprgs (Local)	1/18	1,500	5,200	6,285	5,515	14.0	816-903-8888	5951 E. MO Hwy 10, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024	
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Kearney (Local)	1/18	1,500	5,200	6,285	5,515	14.0	816-903-8888	925 E. 92 Hwy., Kearney, MO 64060	
	Hidden Valley Funeral Home - Lawson (Local)	1/18	1,500	5,200	6,285	5,515	14.0	816-903-8888	412 N. Raum St., Lawson, MO 64062	
	Hixson-Klein Funeral Home - Edgerton (Local)	8/17	1,695	n/a	4,345	**		816-227-3313	303 W. Frank St., Edgerton, MO 64444	
	Hixson-Klein Funeral Home - Smithville (Local)	8/17	1,695	n/a	4,345	**		816-532-9212	104 Mill St., Smithville, MO 64089	
	Meyers Funeral Chapel - Northland (Local)	12/17	1,995	3,875	6,465	6,465	0.0	816-741-0251	401 Main St., Parkville, MO 64152	
	Park Lawn Funeral Homes - Lathrop (Local)	3/17	1,295	n/a	4,875	4,630	5.3	816-740-4658	901 Clinton St., Lathrop, MO 64465	
	Park Lawn Funeral Homes - Liberty (Local)	3/17	1,295	n/a	4,875	4,630	5.3	816-781-8228	1640 N. State-Rt 291, Liberty, MO 64068	
	Prichard Bross & Spidle F-H & Crem Serv (Local)	6/18	995	3,345	5,210	**		816-630-3131	217 W. Broadway Ave., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024	
	Stith Family Funeral Home (local)	1/18	1,595	n/a	5,550	**		816-528-4261	408 East St., Lathrop, MO 64465	
White Chapel Funeral Home (SCI)	4/18	2,870	5,990	8,705	8,555	1.8	816-452-8419	6600 N.E. Antioch Rd., Gladstone, MO 64119		
East Side Lee's Summit; Grain Valley; Odessa; Buckner; Blue Springs	Chapel of Memories Funeral Home (Local)	2/18	1,795	3,030	6,265	6,490	(3.5)	816-463-4030	30000 E. Valor Rd., Grain Valley, MO 64029	
	Langsford Funeral Home (Local)	8/16	2,290	n/a	6,010	6,010	0.0	816-524-3700	115 S.W. 3rd St., Lee's Summit, MO 64063	
	Meyers Funeral Chapel - Blue Springs (Local)	6/13	1,995	3,875	6,705	6,465	3.7	816-229-3276	1600 West Main St., Blue Springs, MO 64015	
	Ralph O. Jones Funeral Home (Local)		FTC GPL was not made available				**		816-633-5524	306 S. Second St., Odessa, MO 64076
	Royer Funeral Homes- Grain Valley (Local)	1/18	990	2,993	5,490	5,390	1.9	816-847-4441	100 Royer Lane, Grain Valley, MO 64029	
	Royer Funeral Homes- Oak Grove (Local)	1/18	990	2,993	5,490	5,390	1.9	816-690-4441	101 E. 15th St., Oak Grove, MO 64075	
	Royer-Hayes Funeral Homes (Local)	1/18	990	2,993	5,490	5,390	1.9	816-229-5551	205 SW 17th St., Blue Springs, MO 64015	
	Speaks Chapels - Buckner (Local)	11/17	3,190	4,665	6,785	6,385	6.3	816-650-5555	300 Adams St., Buckner, MO 64016	
	South Harrisonville; Archie; Belton; Raymore; Garden City; Drexel; Pleasant Hill	Atkinson Funeral Homes- Archie (Local)	1/17	1,595	2,875	*	**		816-293-5566	104 W. Walnut St., Archie, MO 64725
		Atkinson Funeral Homes- Harrisonville (Local)	1/17	1,595	2,875	*	**		816-380-3268	600 Wall St., Harrisonville, MO 64701
Cass County Cremation Service (Local)		1/18	1,100	n/a	*	**		816-884-6302	2400 E. Elm St., Harrisonville, MO 64701	
Cullen Funeral Home (Local)		10/17	2,390	3,665	5,075	4,690	8.2	816-322-5278	612 W. Foxwood Drive, Raymore, MO 64083	
Dickey Funeral Homes-Garden City (Local)		1/18	1,100	3,985	5,190	**		816-862-6345	711 Old Hwy 7, Garden City, MO 64747	
Dickey Funeral Homes-Harrisonville (Local)		1/18	1,100	3,985	5,190	**		816-884-6244	2401 E. Mechanic St., Harrisonville, MO 64701	
McGilley & George Funeral Hm & Crem (SCI)		4/18	2,570	5,090	7,205	7,055	2.1	816-322-2995	611 Chestnut St., Belton, MO 64012	
Mullinax Funeral Home & Cremation (Local)		3/18	1,095	1,575	3,540	**		816-657-4400	136 E Main St., Drexel, MO 64742	
Stanley- Dickey Funeral Home (Local)		1/18	1,100	3,985	4,985	**		816-540-5550	203 Armstrong St., Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	
Wallace Funeral Home (Local)		4/17	1,475	2,750	4,260	**		816-987-2127	422 Lake St., Pleasant Hill, MO 64080	

* Comparable total can not be displayed - prices are missing. - ** No previous year data. - *** 2016 Data Updated New-2b-160906

Funeral Consumers Alliance
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How a funeral price survey comes together

By Kathleen Foster and Ginny Farney, FCA-GKC Board Members



The 2018 Funeral Price Survey was prepared by board members and volunteers who worked tirelessly for months. From left, they are Ginny Farney, Kathleen Foster, David Johnson, and Lyle Van Vleet.

When we were asked to take the lead on this project, I'm not sure either of us knew quite how large a task we were about to undertake. The process involved months of research, making phone calls, stuffing envelopes, visiting funeral homes, and compiling data. By the end of it, we had scoured more than 100 general prices lists (GPLs) to compile the prices charged by funeral homes for their services in our area. While the task was daunting, we were excited to approach the process with fresh eyes and new ideas.

To streamline the process, we did as much as possible remotely. We began our search online, finding that 14 funeral homes posted their GPLs there. The FCA-GKC applauds them for doing so because most don't. We—and consumers everywhere—wish they would.

We were also pleased with the overwhelming cooperation and support we received from the funeral homes in Greater Kansas City. Almost all responded to our calls for GPLs via mail or email and were quick to help when questions arose. Several funeral directors told us they appreciated the work we do, noting that it was an essential resource for folks in our area.

Our team still had to travel to collect a few price lists in person, and for that we owe our volunteers a debt of thanks. Particular gratitude goes to Jim Fitzpatrick, volunteer and former board member, who showed great tenacity in tracking down our last missing GPL.

With new leadership comes fresh perspectives and a few changes to our survey. We have increased the number of funeral homes surveyed, from 95 two years ago to 114.

We expanded the survey's geographic area, adding listings in Missouri's Northland and south into Harrisonville. The format of the survey has also changed a bit since its last iteration, as we have grouped the listings by cities rather than counties. We would welcome your feedback on these changes.

The FCA-GKC often receives calls and emails from outside the metro seeking information, so next on our to-do list is extending our survey to Topeka. With the help of Greta, our volunteer in Topeka, we hope to have that price survey completed and on our website by the end of the year. We also plan to expand the survey into St. Joseph, Jefferson City, and Columbia. Keep an eye on our website, funeralskc.org, for those additions.

We welcome volunteers to help expand our reach! Would you like to volunteer? Call us at 816-561-6322 or email us at fca.gkc@gmail.com. Leave a message and we'll be in touch.

The survey was the culmination of a great cooperative effort. Kathleen chaired the survey committee, communicated with the funeral homes, and organized the data for auditing. Ginny managed volunteers, organized the collection of GPLs, and helped transcribe the data as numbers came in. Survey veterans David Johnson and Lyle Van Vleet dealt with the numbers and charts: David checked the figures, made corrections, and passed it on to Lyle, who entered all those names and numbers into the final format. We were lucky to have such a great team, and hope that you will find our efforts useful. □