



# **Department of Forensic Science Report to the Senate Finance Committee**

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# Western Facility Progress



7/28/14

- Groundbreaking ceremony

1/25/16

- Official move-in to new construction

1/25/16

- Renovations began

9/1/16

- Tentative completion

## Administration



## Evidence Receiving



## Controlled Substances Lab



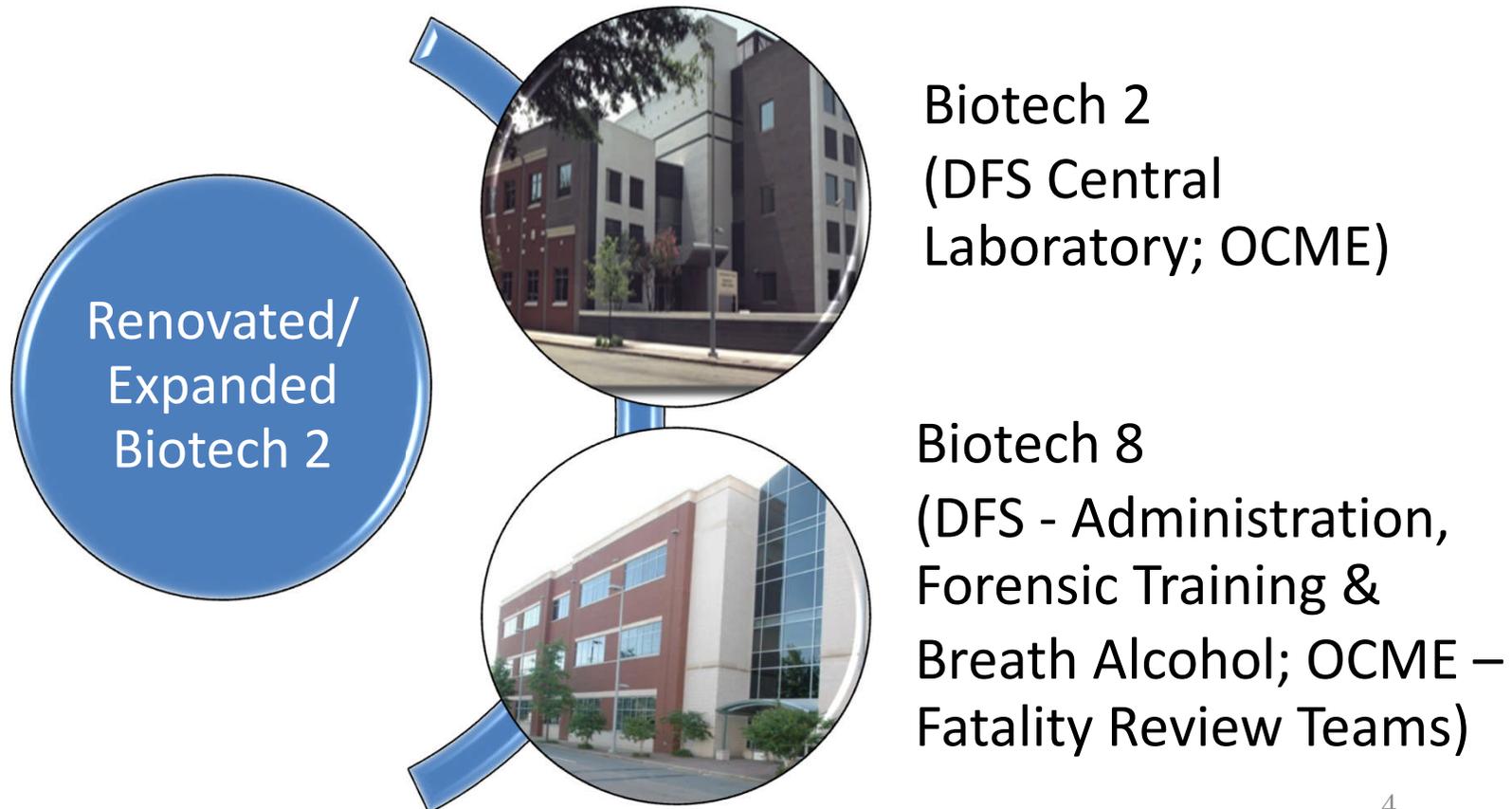
## Training Rooms



# Central Laboratory Renovation / Expansion



- A new A&E firm has been selected and negotiations are in progress. A Construction Manager At-Risk will be selected.



Biotech 2  
(DFS Central  
Laboratory; OCME)

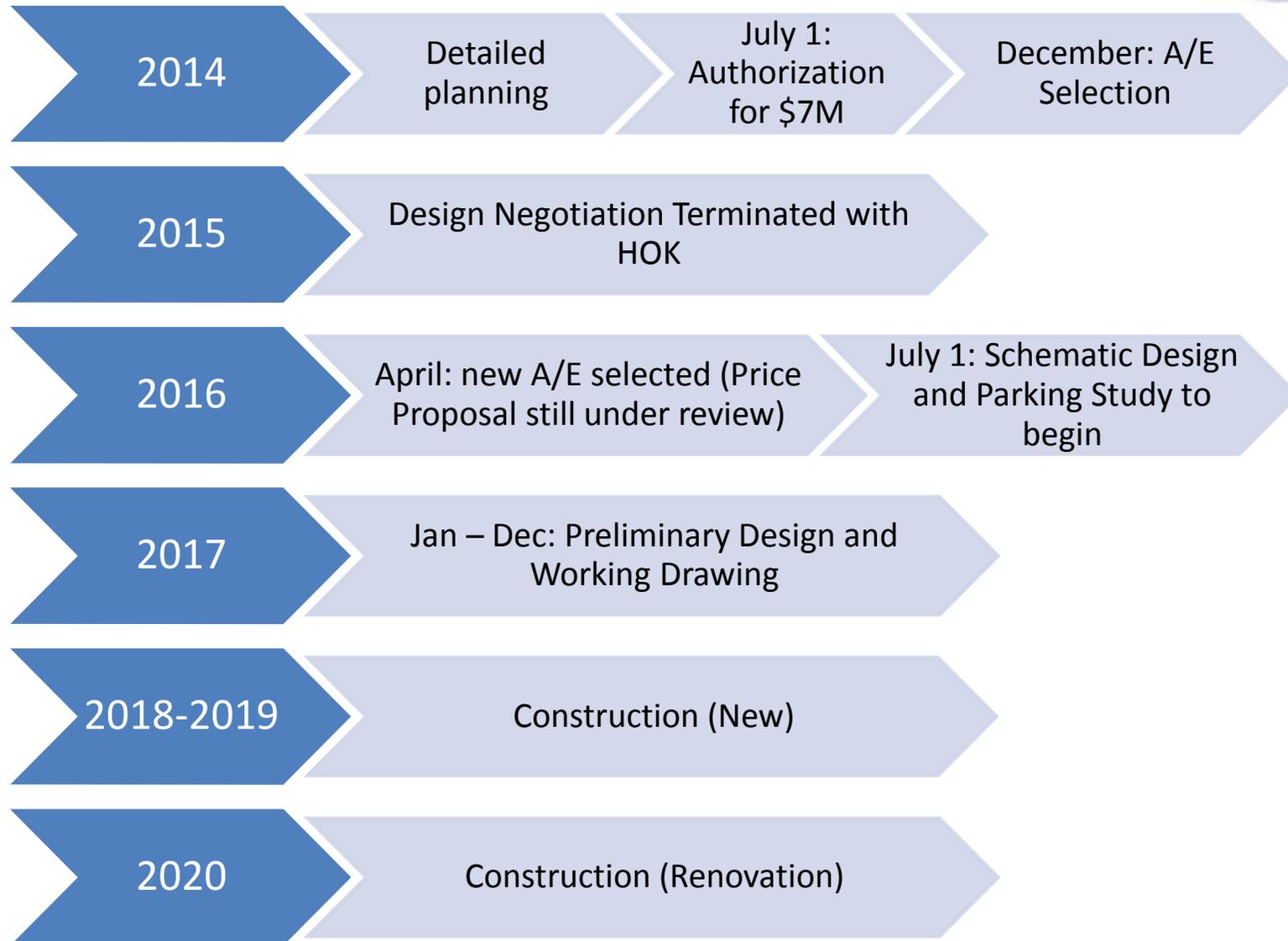
Biotech 8  
(DFS - Administration,  
Forensic Training &  
Breath Alcohol; OCME –  
Fatality Review Teams)

# Central Lab Project Summary



- Renovate existing facility
- New construction on current adjacent surface parking lot
- New underground 4 level parking lot with 351 spaces
- 3 floors of new laboratory space fully integrated with existing facility
- Projected completion in 2020

# Central Laboratory Project Timeline



# Comparison of Laboratory Projects

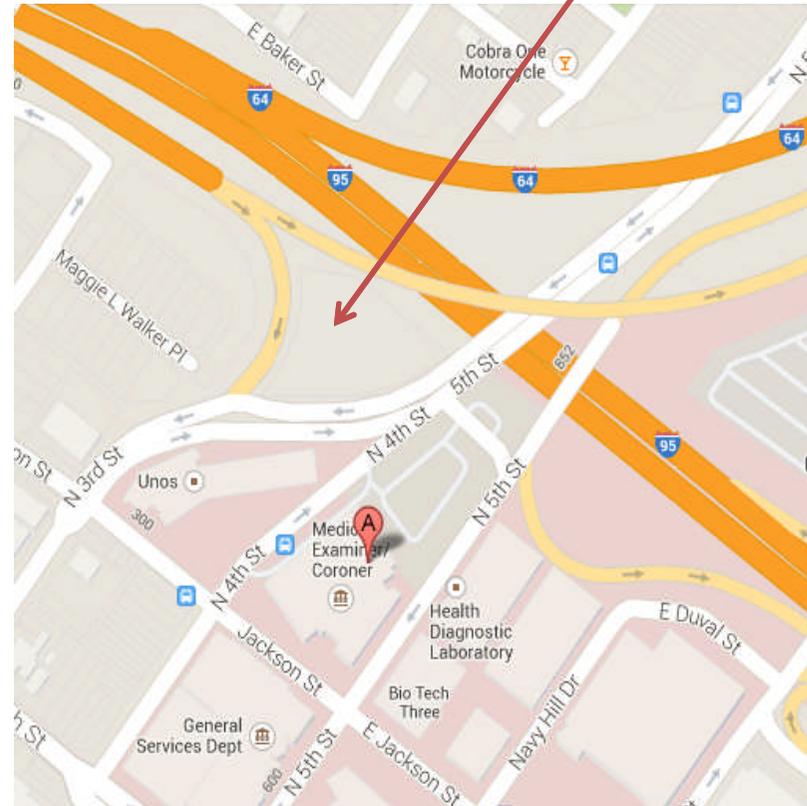


	Total Project Cost	Square Footage	Cost Per Sq. Ft.	Construction Cost (new)	Construction Cost Per Sq. Ft (new)	Construction Cost (renovate)	Construction Cost Per Sq. Ft. (renovate)
Northern 2009 (Manassas) – PPEA	\$62,000,000	110,000	\$563.64	\$55,000,000	\$500.00	n/a	n/a
Western 2016 (Roanoke) – CM@Risk	\$40,500,000	90,000	\$450.00	\$26,700,000	\$430.65	\$7,500,000	\$267.86
Central (Richmond) – Budget	\$138,000,000	280,000	\$435.00	\$75,000,000	\$500	\$17,000,000	\$127
Central Lab Parking		351 subterranean spaces		\$16M (design \$4M + construction \$12M)			
BCOM Cost Data (avg. sq. ft.)					\$350 (Lab) \$641 (OCME)		\$310 (Lab) \$412 (OCME)

# Alternatives to Underground Parking



- Attempt to purchase the City of Richmond property located NE of the site to construct new parking deck. Assessed land value = \$780,000. Traffic pattern associated with highway off-ramp may complicate land use.
- Attempt to purchase 241 City spaces in DCLS lot.





# Facility Update



## Eastern Laboratory

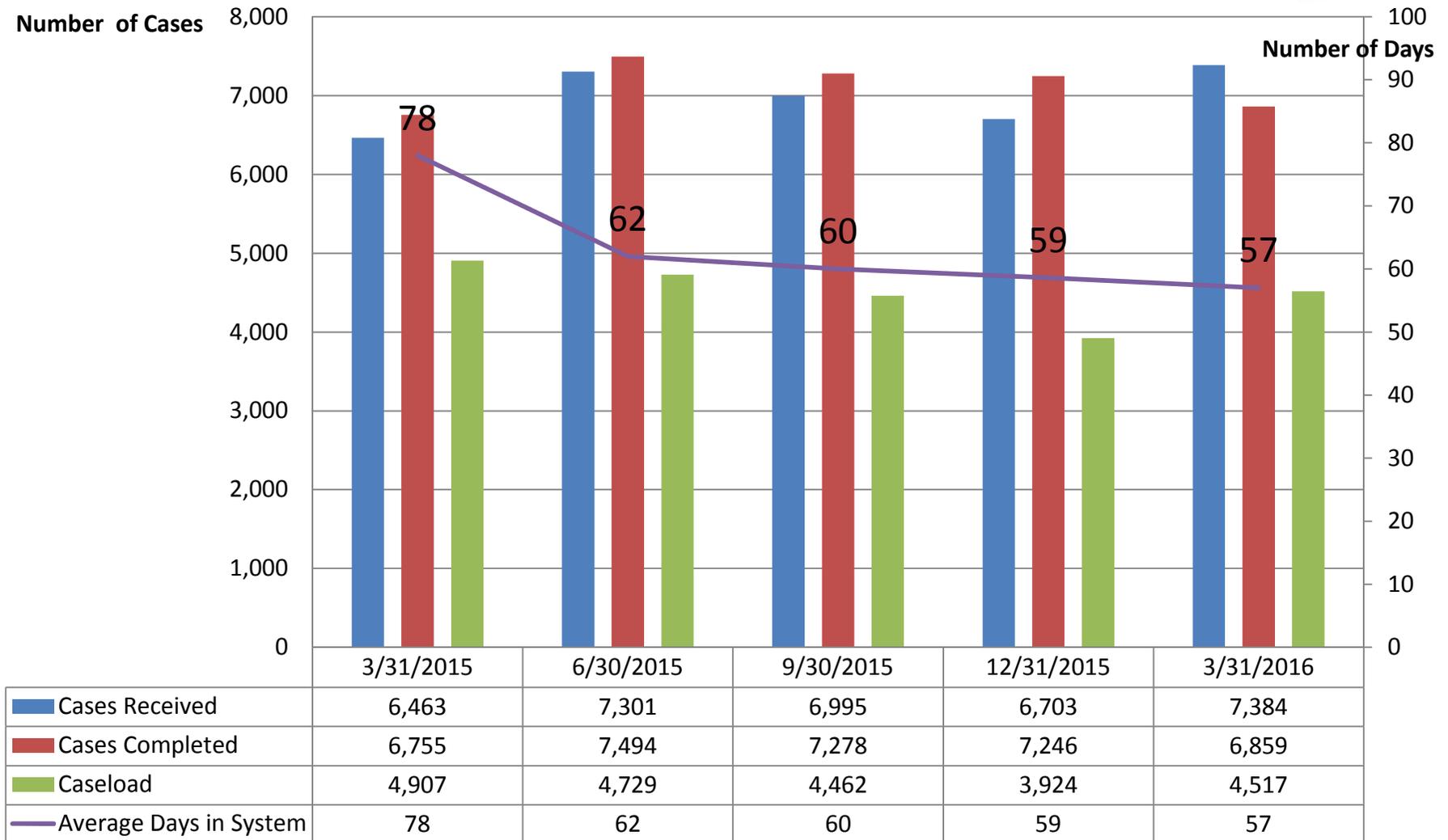
- Facility houses DFS, OCME and Norfolk Public Health Center
- DFS
  - Multi-phase expansion project from 2010 - 2014
  - Expansion from 4<sup>th</sup> into 5<sup>th</sup> floor meets needs
- OCME
  - Death investigator staff has increased beyond current capacity and will continue to grow as local medical examiners retire

## Northern Laboratory

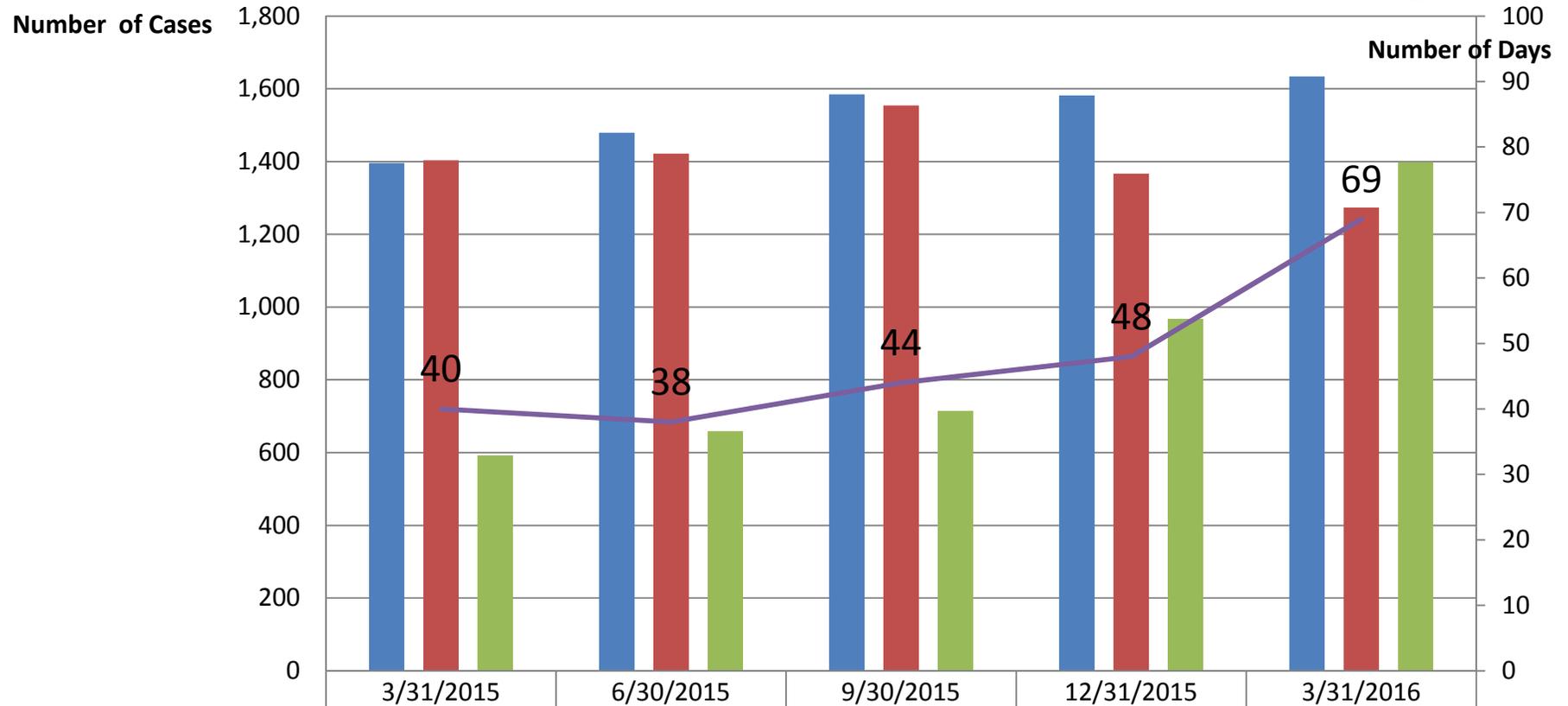
- Moved into facility in 2009
- Space and facility currently meet needs of DFS and OCME



# Controlled Substances

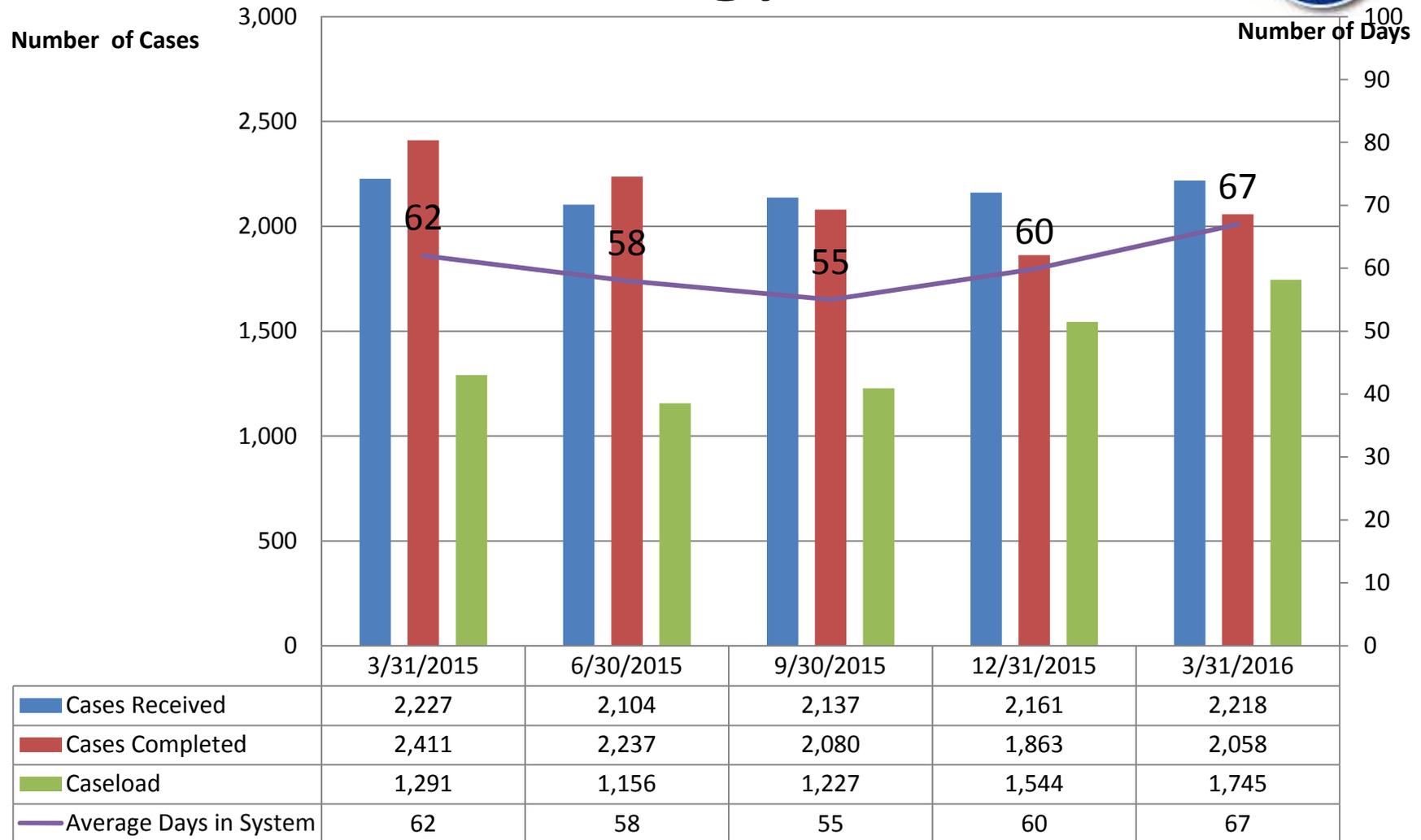


# Firearms



Cases Received	1,396	1,479	1,585	1,582	1,634
Cases Completed	1,404	1,422	1,554	1,367	1,274
Caseload	592	659	715	968	1,398
Average Days in System	40	38	44	48	69

# Toxicology



# FY17/18 Budget Increases



	2017	2018
Provide additional funding for PERK testing	\$903,750	\$901,625
Provide additional resources to trace firearms used in crimes	\$592,681	\$343,500
Provide funding for six scientists in the Toxicology Section	\$409,973	\$614,959
Provide personnel for quality assurance and compliance	\$121,092	\$132,100
Provide funding for administrative staff at three laboratories	\$177,430	\$193,560
Provide one additional facilities maintenance position in the Northern Laboratory	\$75,918	\$82,820
Fund one facilities maintenance position and utilities costs at the expanded Western Laboratory	\$529,500	\$529,500
Fund annual maintenance and support costs for LIMS	\$58,300	\$58,300
Fund purchase of scientific instrumentation via Master Equipment Lease Program (MELP)	\$0	\$350,000

# Retesting of Post-Conviction DNA Cases



## Retesting of Post-Conviction DNA Cases

- Provided \$150,000 GF in Fiscal Year 2016 to support the advanced re-testing of post-conviction DNA cases with “inconclusive” results
- July – Oct. 2015: 421 cases reviewed
- Nov. 2015: 33 cases recommended for testing sent to contract lab
- May 2016: Contract lab returned results in 27 of 33 cases

# Review of Archived Case Files



- Provided \$38,598 in FY15 and \$188,350 for FY16 - FY18 to support creation of database and digitized Certificates of Analysis
- Approximately 1,000,000 case files between 1973 – 1994
- ~ 10,000 cases have been uploaded to date



# Historical Case Reviews



## Serology

- Refers to the identification of body fluids, ABO blood group testing and enzyme testing
- Conducted by DFS until the early 1990s
- Recent Petition for a Writ of Actual Innocence alleged probative results were not reported
- Second exoneration where the serology results from this examiner were questioned

# Serology



- Presented review proposal to both SAC and FSB
- Begin with 200 cases randomly selected from the years 1982, 1986 and 1990 in Eastern and Northern as well as previous exonerations
- Reviewers: 2 DFS scientists and 1 external scientist
- Reviewers will recommend when notifications should be made to the prosecutor, defense counsel (if ascertainable), and the defendant (if located)
- DFS will test any remaining biological evidence if requested and prosecution and defense agree to testing or upon order of the Court
- Once initial review complete, a determination will be made as to whether further review is needed

# Historical Case Reviews



## Microscopic Hair Comparisons

- Refers to comparison of human hair samples, but cannot be used to identify a person to the exclusion of all others
- Conducted by DFS until 2006
- FBI review identified numerous cases where its scientists made statements beyond what was scientifically supported
- FBI trained state and local examiners and recommended agencies perform their own reviews

# Microscopic Hair Comparisons



- Forensic Science Board (FSB) created a subcommittee to develop scope and process for review
- FSB voted to allow subcommittee to move forward with updates back to the Board
- Request for assistance identifying cases and preliminary information gathering – volunteers
- Identifying 12 transcripts for Subcommittee to review to develop specific review criteria
- Review panel: 2 attorneys and 1 DFS Scientist
- Process and content of Notifications to be determined

