



# Funeral Planning Today

For the average person, the ins and outs of funeral planning are unfamiliar and confusing. Most people don't know where to start or even what their options are. Should you choose cremation or burial? How do you go about personalizing the funeral? What is the value of a funeral, and what elements should you include? At Crawford Funeral Home, we are here to help you understand and make sense of your options.



From the desk of  
Mike Crawford

Owner and Funeral  
Director

## “So, how did you get into this business??”

It is a question that I often get, and it takes a little explaining. I am what is called a “first generation” funeral director; unlike many funeral directors, it wasn't in my family. It also wasn't something I woke up one day and decided to do.

I was very fortunate that after taking some interest in the profession, a family friend took the time to acquaint me with the world of funeral service. To further explore my interest, I decided to “try things on” by working for the Blaschke Funeral Home in La Crosse, where I completed my apprenticeship and attended UW-La Crosse. During that time, I was exposed to all facets of funeral service, and soon realized that this profession fit with many of the qualities I desired, not only in a job, but for my life; helping people, owning my own business, as well as utilizing different disciplines (science, art, business, and customer service), on a regular basis.

After graduating from UW-La Crosse with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, I attended Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Wheeling, IL. During that time, I was fortunate to work for Kolssak Funeral Home, where I continued learning many different ways to serve families. During that time, I also learned something very important about myself.....the big city, while exciting, wasn't where I saw myself long-term. I knew I wanted to return to a small town.



After completing mortuary school, I stayed in Illinois for six more months, gaining experience and sorting through my options. Cathy and I were engaged at the time, and wanted to find the right fit for starting our family. Even though I was born and raised in Westfield, right here in Marquette County, I wasn't solely focused on returning. During that time, I was contacted by the Wachholz family about buying their Montello funeral home. After working out many details, I purchased the funeral home in Montello in October of 2008. Five years later, an opportunity to purchase the Oxford location presented itself.

If someone would have told me years ago that this is the profession I would be in, I probably would have never believed them! I have always enjoyed learning about people, and the routes they've taken in life. I find things often come full circle, and I am grateful for the path which has led me to the opportunity of serving our community.

-Mike

## Did you know?



**Question:** What is an outer burial container?

**Answer:** Simply put, an outer burial container is used when either a casket or an urn is buried. They typically come in two forms: a grave liner or a burial vault. Outer burial containers are most often made of reinforced concrete. Although most states do not mandate them, most cemeteries do

require, at minimum, the use of a grave liner. Over time, a casket/urn will decay, and the earth around the casket/urn will shift and resettle. Reinforcing the area with a concrete barrier will prevent graves from caving in on themselves. This ensures grounds remain level, which is both safer and more conducive to property maintenance in a cemetery.



Preparing your funeral wishes is absolutely free! We can review all your options with you and help you determine what is right for you and your family....even in the comfort of your own home. Having an idea of what your services will cost will help you when you determine how to handle expenses. Even if you decide not to pre-pay, we can inform you

about affordable options.

Want the kids to be part of the conversation? Invite them to your pre-planning appointment!

Contact Mike Crawford:

Montello: (608) 297-2268

Oxford: (608) 586-4000

## In Memoriam



For full obituaries, please visit  
[crawfordfh.com](http://crawfordfh.com).

March 2019

Please help us honor and remember those we've lost, and keep families and friends in your thoughts and prayers:

Nancy Spillner, Packwaukee - March 6

Milton Hintz, Oxford - March 10

Mary Machajewski, Packwaukee - March 14

Leola Gruling, Montello - March 14

Frieda Otto, Montello - March 18

Peter Toth, Packwaukee - March 23

Lorraine Rynearson, Thorntown, IN/Oxford - March 23

Stephen Campfield, Montello - March 28