

From: Jennifer McClure
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To: Angie L. Crews
Subject: Text

Major Kevin Spaulding welcomed everyone to the Huddle at the Jail Conference room. The Major, with the assistance of Captains Jeff Coonrod and Royce Denny, delivered an informative presentation covering a number of challenges affecting the Jail staff and budget. The Greene County Jail is the largest Sheriff-run facility in the state and houses an accredited medical facility. There are more than 200 employees and the Jail capacity is 601 inmates. The Jail is currently overcapacity which means approximately 100 inmates are housed in other jails in the region each day under reciprocal agreements. Captain Denny manages the correctional aspect of the facility, while Captain Coonrod manages the administrative aspect. Jail staff work with Building Operations employees to maintain the facility, physical operations, and cleanliness.

The majority (80%) of Jail population is made up of inmates whose crimes were committed within the municipalities of Greene County, primarily within the City of Springfield. Statistics for this day showed that there are 435 inmates currently in our jail that were arrested by the Springfield Police Department.

Jail reciprocity is estimated to cost the County \$1,000,000 dollars by the end of this year – that is double the amount budgeted for 2016. The number of Greene County inmates who are sent to out-of-county facilities is approximately 100 per day. Also, the average daily inmate stay is now 24 days as the severity of their crimes has increased and there is a bottleneck in the court system due to the work load of the Public Defender's office. Reciprocal costs range from \$35 - \$38 per day per inmate, plus the additional cost of transportation and medical expenses. The County receives a per diem from the state which was scheduled to increase \$2 this fiscal year but due to the Governor's budget withholding will now only increase by 50 cents. Reimbursement from the state is only released to the County if the inmate is convicted. As our neighboring counties face similar issues and have fewer beds available, it is becoming increasingly difficult to send inmates out-of-county within a reasonable distance.

There are many contributing factors to this community problem including a shortage of public defenders, as well as inadequate and delayed reimbursement from the state for monies owed the County for housing inmates. Because most inmates are awaiting trial, any delays in the courts system can affect Jail population.

Following the presentation, Captains Coonrod and Denny took us on a tour of the Jail administration area, the kitchen and laundry, medical, booking, the control room, C-pod and the area in the tower where the library and the chapel are housed. Along the way, they explained the functions of each area, and answered questions. It is evident that we are fortunate here in Greene County to have such a fine Jail facility and staff. Thank you to both Captains and Major Spaulding for taking time out of their day to educate us, and for all that they and their employees do for the citizens of Greene County.

"Greene County Works . . ."

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