

From the Office of the Sheriff:

Four-years ago we made a commitment to generate as much revenue as we can to offset the cost of doing business. We realize that government services are expensive and the future tells us we will have to find the necessary resources to sustain our operations. Many may think that our focus to increase revenue is through traffic enforcement and writing tickets. Not true. The Sheriff's department does not see any direct revenue from traffic citations.

Forms of revenue we look for include grants and funding from state and federal resources. We have experienced some success in this area. Though many of these require a 25% or so county match, we have garnered millions of dollars. Recent grants include funding for our new E911 Center, our cellular 911 upgrade, enhanced traffic enforcement grants, upgrades to our portable radios and others. Many of these programs were created after 9-11 and these same sources that have provided us millions of dollars are now slowly drawing down. With that being said, we have not drawn down, we still actively and aggressively pursue any funding available from outside the county. We owe the taxpayer every effort possible to attract outside funding.

The revenue source that we have been most proud of is through our Dodge County Detention Facility. Currently we have contracts with the U.S. Marshall's Service, Immigrations and Custom's Enforcement, and Rock County. These three entities have provided a daily average of over 300 contract beds per day. Our current capacity is around 472. We remain full, with the balance, 175 or so, being our own local inmate population. The jail has always been a source of revenue but we have really taken advantage of this opportunity those past four-years.

Assistant Jail Administrator Tom Polsin has done a fabulous job working with our partners to ensure these revenues are sustained. Great credit also goes to our Correctional Officers and support staff that has constantly been applauded by our federal partners when they make their monthly inspections of our facilities and operations. The staff is very good at what they do.

The federal government pays Dodge County approx. \$68.00 per day per each bed. Quick math shows that on any given day we make over twenty-one thousand federal dollars per day or almost \$8 million per year. Anytime we can pull these federal dollars back to Dodge County it is a win-win. None of this revenue stays with the Sheriff's Department; it all goes directly to the county's general fund. Some may ask what are the expenses? How much do we spend to collect the \$8 million? This year, as in the past, we will hold our own county inmates (175 per day) at no cost to the taxpayer. Our meals are down to \$1.16 each and are acceptable in both taste and portion. The building runs at its peak efficiency if it is full. We are full averaging a total of 472+ total inmates daily.

We have developed a great repour with our federal partners and our goal is to enhance this relationship for years to come. Our budget relies on the continuation of these contracts. Should we loose this funding, approx. 50 employees would be laid off and the tax levy to support the Sheriff's Dept. would increase by \$3 million. We will do everything we can to ensure this does not happen.

We hope that never happens. We remain proactive, seek opportunity and already have a few back-up plans should the federal inmate numbers decline. I can not understate the importance of this program and the very positive impact it has on Dodge County's financial well-being and the taxpayer. Thanks for listening: tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us.