



Media Alert

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Sheriff

For immediate release Wayne County Jails report for Thursday, October 17, 2013

The Wayne County Sheriff's Office has been chronically underfunded for its basic mandated function of operating the jails. The budget allocates funding to house 1,776 inmates per day at the three Wayne County jails, a number set by a Wayne County Circuit Court consent order. But, in fact, the Sheriff's Office is required to provide oversight of approximately 1,000 additional inmates per day – 500 that are incarcerated in the jails and 500 that are monitored on tether, creating a deficit of millions of dollars.

Using audited financial data, the county Auditor General determined the cost per diem to house an offender at about \$144 per day. To help reduce costs, the sheriff operates an electronic monitoring (tether) unit that the Auditor General calls one of the largest and most successful tether programs in the United States. It keeps hundreds of offenders out of the jails at a per person cost of about \$23 per day, saving more than \$20 million a year, based on Auditor General estimates.

Here's a look at how today's jail population negatively affects the budget:

October 17, 2013

Budgeted Jail Population	1,776
Today's Jail Population	2,279
Jail Population over Budget	503
Today's Deficit for Non-Budgeted Inmates	\$72,432
Accumulated Deficit since Oct. 1, 2013	\$1,234,944
Today's Tether Population	535
Today's Total Jail/Tether Population	2,814
Total Over Budgeted Population Today	1,038