



Media Alert

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Sheriff

For immediate release

Wayne County Jails report for Thursday, Oct. 3, 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:

Oct. 3, 2013

Budgeted jail population.....	1,776
Today's jail population.....	2,266
Jail population over budget.....	490
Today's deficit for non-budgeted inmates ...	\$70,560
Today's tether population.....	501
Today's total jail/tether population	2,767

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