



Media Alert

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Sheriff

For immediate release Wayne County Jails report for Wednesday, January 08, 2014

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 of whom are incarcerated in the jails (including about 200 inmates under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Marshals Service who are not part of the consent order) and 500 more who are monitored on tether -- creating a deficit of millions of dollars. The Sheriff's Office is only budgeted to supervise 200 daily tether participants.

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:

January 8, 2014

Budgeted Jail Population	1,776
Today's Jail Population	1,942
Jail Population over Budget	166
Today's Deficit for Non-Budgeted Inmates	\$23,904
Accumulated Deficit since Oct. 1, 2013	\$5,486,688
Budgeted Tether Population	200
Today's Tether Population	520
Tether Population over budget	320
Today's Total Jail/Tether Population	2,462
Total Over Budgeted Population Today	486