



KNOX COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Sheriff

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Timothy K. Carroll
Chief Deputy

Mr. Mark Westrum, Chair
Maine State Board of Corrections
State House Station 111
Augusta, ME 04330-0111

8/15/13

Dear Mark:

We have tried very hard to conserve here at Knox County and help out the system as a whole. It has been a burden on our staff that is the lifeline of our jail. Flat funding or continued "SCRUBBING" our budget will eventually result in some major changes in how we do or rather do not do things in the future.

First, Knox County did not request the 4th quarter payment of \$36,636.00 for FY-13 estimating that it would not be needed. However, due to medical and other unexpended expenses we will be asking for most if not all of the 4th quarter payment.

Now regarding FY-14 and 15.

While we will strive to stay within our budget this may not be possible due to increases in cost for everything it takes to run a facility. Tough decisions will have to be made in order to stay within our budget. Situations out of our control at any time can effect how we do things here at Knox County. Some choices we will be faced with are as follows.

1. Eliminate some programs. While this may affect system population it may help in a small way to allow us to stay within budget.
2. Staff lay off. Go to a 48 hr. holding facility. Shutting down sections of the jail and boarding out inmates.

3. The option of cutting back training to save money for things like food and medical services. This could easily result in violations of standards and increase liability not to mention poor moral.
4. We will be stopping juvenile transports. Local law enforcement will have to transport their juvenile arrestees.
5. Needed repairs to our facility will not be completed. Resulting in the possibility of standards violations and more cost in the future. Safety and security will be concerns. Our control system has been in need of major repair for the past few years. We have not had the funding to fix it. If this system fails, which it could at any time, it could result in having to move more inmates out, placing more burdens on the system.
6. Let the state take everything.

These are only some of the choices that may need to be made if adequate funding is not provided to County Jails. I would like to add that Knox County will as always, strive to work with the Board in every way we can. However, we cannot continue to work with the same budget year after year and be expected to keep the same level of service when costs keep going up and no increase is provided to match it.

Sincerely;

Sheriff Donna Dennison
Knox County Sheriff's Office

C/C Knox County Commissioners
Andy Hart, County Administrator
Major John Hinkley, Jail Administrator