

Oxford County Sheriff's Office

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BUDGET IMPACT STATEMENT 2014 OXFORD COUNTY JAIL

August 13, 2013

In 2008 the Oxford County Jail was designated a 72 hour holding facility under the Jail Authority's State Bureau of Corrections Consolidation Plan.

BUDGET	\$ 1,307,073	
Tax Cap		1,228,000
CCA Funds		212,311
80%		53,078 Maine pretrial Program funding
Target (14)	\$ 1,307,073	
Increases	56,704 Commodities	= Total = 1,363,776

Result 1,307,073 Is not obtainable without loss of officer's and/or Maine Pretrial services:

Officers per Mission change of 2008

1 Jail Administrator

13 Corrections officers 24 hour coverage 7 days per week

** staffing levels are low that resulted from budget established in

2008. We serve our agency, seven local police departments, the State Police,

The Maine Warden Service as well as Maine Probation/ Parole and Juvenile

Probation Services. We are responsible for transporting inmates to four district

courts and one superior court.

Respectfully Request that the Oxford County Jail be released from the Flat Funding Budgeting request.

NOTE: The Impact of a flat funded budget process for all jails, will create a reduced budget for the existing jails of Androscoggin County as well as others, Their impact of lower staffing will be a direct impact onto the capable housing of offenders for Oxford County, whereby reducing the available beds for housing those pre-trial inmates, and sentenced offenders up to 89 days, as mission change of 2008 stated housing locations. Cumberland County's inability to house longer term offenders directly impacts those to be housed over 90 days, from Oxford County as well as Androscoggin County. This i creates a domino effect that results in no housing to be found or if housing is located in any Maine Jail would result in increased transport miles.

The Tax cap of 2008, and its wording, by statute, was designed to fund Maine jails by funding the difference raised from the taxpayer to the actual costs of jails. This has not been done. The intent of the legislation was to continue funding the jails to operate after all existing efficiencies were found, combining services and reducing jail costs where possible. Oxford County has exhausted all of its intended goals, and now is faced with sever and dangerous staffing cuts, with the expectation to continue to complete its required services to the judicial system.

IMPACT OF RECEIVING JAILS Androscoggin and Cumberland

NOTE: In 2009, Oxford County was able to move offenders to Androscoggin in a more efficient manner, after initial court appearance, and those sentenced offenders as they arrived at OCJ. This allowed us to work with a low budget as it was designed, as meals and medical costs were avoided

Between 2009 and 2011 the Androscoggin Jail found high inmate counts and staffing to be problematic, thus a change was needed for their own efficiency. Oxford County Jail became required to hold its inmates to the full standard of the 72 hour holding statute excluding weekends, holidays and Court days. This impact on Oxford County increased the time of those held to a 6 and sometimes 7 day stay. This resulted in the need for more meals and medical services. We are forced to hold offenders long term awaiting a bed somewhere.

As of this date, Androscoggin inmate population is high due to the impact created by Cumberland Jail not taking offenders, thus not providing room for Oxford Inmates. This Domino effect of those jails being impacted by flat funding creates a situation where Oxford is forced to hold offenders, seek bed space forcing violations to the (72) hour rules. Legislature must fund the difference as required.

Oxford County Budget cap of \$ 1,228,000 should be increased by the Maine Legislative body.

Note: This is the third year in a row that the State Of Maine has not met its obligation to fund the difference from the costs of jails in Maine, making up a proportion of the difference from what is collected by the tax capped appropriation and the true cost of operating Maine jails.

Each of the Jails must operate under the laws defined in the State of Maine Jail Standards to provide any and all service that meets the State and Federal applicable laws and standards, ensuring those in its custody and care due process afforded each person within the judicial system according the rights given all of us under the laws and US Constitution.

Oxford County, as described by its missions change, and its status under the Maine Jail Authority cannot operate with a lower or a flat funded budget .The impact is the loss of employee(s) and/or Maine Pretrial Services. We currently have 32 being monitored through pretrial services.

I am requesting that the Oxford County Jail be strongly considered for a mission change. We are open for dialogue as to how to fund the unique situation Oxford County is placed in. With continued flat funding and no pretrial services we can expect a sharp increase in our daily populations resulting in increased food and medical costs as well as having no place to bring those exceeding the 72 hour holding standards.

Sincerely,


Captain Edward M Quinn
Oxford County Jail Administrator