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Out of County Housing

If the Schoolcraft County Jail is closed and the County decides not to build a new jail, a decision needs to be made as to how to deal with those inmates that would otherwise be held in the Schoolcraft County Jail.

One of those options is to contract with surrounding counties to house Schoolcraft County’s inmates. It is important to consider not only the annual cost of out of county housing, but the long-term cost as well taking into account considerations such as inflation and unforeseen conditions, weather, liability of transporting inmates, etc.

So, as we look into this option, we must identify several planning assumptions:

1. The existing Jail will still need to remain in operation for the purposes of:
   a. To house the Sheriff’s Office
   b. To house the 911 Center
   c. To house short term holding of inmates awaiting transport to outside counties
   d. To house short term arrestees (under 72 hours)
   e. To house inmates for Court proceedings

2. The existing Jail will require renovation to comply with State Building Codes, Fire Marshall and DOC requirements. If these renovations are not completed, the jail will not be able to continue use for the above functions. The existing jail is approximately 8,500 square feet.
   a. Replacement of the roofing and insulation system
   b. Upgrade of exterior elements such as new windows, tuckpointing, caulking, adding insulation to exterior walls
   c. Interior renovation of walls, floor, ceilings and all finishes
   d. Complete replacement of HVAC systems
   e. Complete replacement of Plumbing systems
   f. Complete replacement of Electrical systems
   g. Complete replacement of data and security systems

3. The Counties with available beds will vary constantly and will likely grow further away with time. We assume housing for 35 inmates at any given time and the following Counties used for this calculation are:
   a. Alger County
      i. 5 inmates
      ii. 92 mile round trip
      iii. 2 trips per week
      iv. $30 / inmate / day
   b. Marquette County
      i. 10 inmates
ii. 182 mile round trip
iii. 2 trips per week
iv. $30 / inmate / day

c. Antrim County
   i. 10 inmates
   ii. 362 mile round trip
   iii. 1 trip per week
   iv. $30 / inmate / day

d. Wexford County
   i. 10 inmates
   ii. 470 mile round trip
   iii. 1 trip per week
   iv. $30 / inmate / day

4. Transportation costs for out-of-county housing are as follows:
   a. Transports will require two vehicles, 1 car and 1 van
   b. Vehicles will require replacement every 5 years
   c. Four transport officers will be required.
   d. The total cost of a transport officer is $25.00 / hour each
   e. Transport officers will work 40 hours per week
   f. Vehicles will cost $0.50 per mile to operate
   g. Average monthly miles driven is 1380 miles

Based on the demands associated with housing inmates out-of-County and the assumptions listed above, it can be projected that the county will incur the following costs by utilizing its current jail for short-term 72-hour holding and housing 35 inmates per day out of County.

1. Cost to renovate the existing jail
   a. 8,500 sf x $175/sf = $1,487,500 x 1.37% soft costs = $2,037,875

2. Annual cost to operate the existing jail
   a. 33% of current jail budget – $983,662 x .33 = $327,887

3. Annual Cost of Inmate Housing
   a. 35 inmates x $30.00/day x 365 days = $383,250 (2018)

4. Annual cost of transportation
   a. Staff: $208,000
   b. Vehicles: $15,000
   c. Mileage: $35,880
   d. Total: $258,880
Total annual operating costs equal $970,017 per year. Assuming 4% inflation per year for 20-year operation costs equal $28,885,240. Assuming the County pays cash for Jail renovation of $2,037,875.

Total 20-year cost of Out-of-County housing totals $30,923,115.