

# County of Aroostook

## COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

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### COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS F. BEAULIEU



### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PAUL J. ADAMS  
HOULTON

NORMAN L. FOURNIER  
WALLAGRASS

PAUL J. UNDERWOOD  
PRESQUE ISLE

### MEMORANDUM

August 14, 2013

TO: State Board of Corrections  
FR: Douglas F. Beaulieu, County Administrator <sup>DFB</sup>  
RE: FY 14 Impact Statement – Aroostook County Jail

It is well established that the Aroostook County Jail (ACJ) has been underfunded since the inception of the Board of Corrections in 2008.

For the last four (4) fiscal years, the Board of Corrections has approved “deficit reduction” payments to the ACJ, on top of annual Investment Fund distributions. In FY 13 alone, the deficit reduction payment amounted to \$289,000.

We anticipate a “structural gap” of \$360,000 in FY 14 and \$480,000 in FY 15. These are extremely conservative estimates, in that they do not include capital for the purchase of vehicles or money for infrastructure improvements to our facility. This could easily account for another \$100,000 to \$150,000 per fiscal year.

We have discussed a multitude of options to mitigate this problem. However, all options are logistically flawed and impossible to implement, particularly in light of the Sheriff’s statutory responsibility as Jailer under Title 30-A.

We believe the State of Maine has a moral, financial and legal obligation to properly fund our facility. We are presently working, in earnest, with the Department of Corrections (DOC) to implement a cornucopia of recommendations by the DOC to both reduce our inmate population and increase our capacity to board inmates. Our ultimate goal is to operate our facility in a self-sufficient manner, thereby eliminating the need to board inmates outside of the county and reduce overall system costs.

However, this will require some level of funding beyond the structural gap figures outlined above. As soon as we have collaborative agreement with the DOC, we will crunch the numbers and come up with that cost analysis.

State Board of Corrections  
FY 14 Impact Statement  
August 14, 2014

In the interim, however, we have calculated that “level funding” will only allow us enough money to operate our facility through April 30th of this fiscal year. This is our “best case” scenario.

Obviously this option is unacceptable to us and the BOC, but it does illustrate the magnitude of our problem.

Thanks for your consideration.

Cc: County Commissioners  
Sheriff James P. Madore  
File