



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Jail operations budget for 2010 means layoffs for corrections officers

Port Orchard, Wash. -- Hoping that this moment would never occur, but recognizing that a tough decision was required, Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer and Corrections Chief Ned Newlin appeared before the Board of County Commissioners Monday afternoon and presented their plan for Kitsap County Jail operations, despite continuous reductions in funding.

The single most drastic cut is a reduction in force, or layoff, of six and possibly up to nine corrections personnel presently working as commissioned officers within the jail. The exact number of officers to be laid-off will be determined within the next week.

The affected officers were briefed by the sheriff and the chief of corrections about this pending action. Their last day of work is expected to be Dec. 31.

As a result of a loss in revenue of more than \$430,000 in 2010, due to a change in contract with the Washington State Department of Corrections, coupled with a mandate by county commissioners to fund personnel only at 97% of pay & benefits, which equates to a reduction of more than \$230,000, the sheriff had run out of options for jail operations management.

"This decision was very difficult as it impacts the entire agency personally," said Sheriff Steve Boyer. "We are in frequent discussions with our county commissioners to try and find alternatives to reduce the impact that revenue loss is having on jail operations and corrections staff."

The sheriff's office has worked for ten years to gradually increase and improve jail operations. Residents voted to expand jail capacity and increase staffing to meet the demands and criminal justice issues of a growing county population. The division is 100% compliant with National Institute of Corrections and American Corrections Association guidelines and regulations regarding inmate management. Jail training is second to none.

“We have been good stewards of county funding and have reduced specific programs, and funding outlays, in increments where feasible,” the sheriff added. “Eight unfilled corrections officer positions were eliminated during preliminary budget planning. We may be faced with operating the jail while short 17 officers. That is 20% of jail officer manning.”

Jail Operations Management:

The sheriff has outlined temporary changes in jail operations to best conform with the decrease in personnel and funding:

- The corrections division is studying the possibility of placing certain classifications of jail inmates into the division’s electronic home monitoring program, in order to reduce jail inmate population.
- Closing a 39-bed jail inmate housing unit.
- Reduce food service budget.
- Increase in electronic home monitoring costs.
- Re-assignment of administrative personnel to jail operations.
- Elimination of weekday visitation for jail inmates. Visitation will occur during weekends / holidays only.
- Jail administrative hours adjusted to:
9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

“These reductions can only be undertaken for a **temporary** period of time without incurring serious long-term effects to the jail, the criminal justice system and the county,” concluded the Sheriff.

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