



SOMERSET COUNTY

Tim Curtis - County Administrator
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February 29, 2024

RE: Testimony before the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee regarding Jail Funding

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee.

My name is Tim Curtis, and I am the County Administrator for Somerset County. I am here to add my support to keeping \$4M in the Supplemental Budget to help Counties offset the costs of mandated Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) for inmates.

My comments will simply highlight the growing costs associated with housing inmates. In Somerset the **actual cost per inmate per day is currently \$160. Three years ago, that figure was approximately \$130.** Every sector of the economy has been impacted with increased costs of labor, equipment as well as food and medical services. County jails are no exception as we have seen the cost of housing inmates increase by over 20%.

During that same timeframe however, funding to the Maine Department of Corrections (MDOC) **Prison System has increased 20% while the increase in State funding for County Jails has only increased 3.6%.** State Prisons and County Jails have the same cost structures and expense factors. There should be equity in funding.

We appreciate the Legislature's efforts to assist with the cost of MAT, and we hope that this funding will be the first of many steps toward equity in the funding of County Jails.

Regards,

Tim Curtis
Somerset County Administrator

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