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County losing jail revenue

By EMILY SHAPIRO emily.shapiro@register-news.com Jul 22, 2016

MT. VERNON — The loss of \$75,000 in U.S. Marshal revenue will impact the county budget and the Justice Center budget, according to Jefferson County Treasurer Dan Knox.

“That \$75,000 that we will not be able to count on for next year, it could have paid for the first year expenses of a new deputy,” Knox said.

Knox gave a presentation of the U.S. Marshal fund during Thursday night's Jefferson County Board Fiscal Committee meeting. The report came on the heels of Jefferson County Sheriff Travis Allen announcing he was asking for four new deputies — but he would be happy with two. Knox said the report was part of the budget work of the county, with the new fiscal year starting on Dec. 1.

“We're in budget time and we need to have a snapshot of what does this revenue look like, the history of it and also potentially what does it look like moving forward,” Knox explained.

The county receives money from the U.S. Marshal Service for housing its detainees on a per diem basis.

Allen said the per diem rate was \$45, but has been renegotiated to \$55 per day.

The projected revenue budgeted for the U.S. Marshal Service for fiscal year 2015-16 for the Jefferson County Justice Center \$75,000. However, the current total received as of June is around \$23,000.

A breakdown of the receipts this year is \$6,300 received in December, \$6,975 in January, \$5,130 in February, \$2,520 in March, \$1,350 in April and \$45 in May. No income was earned in June. For the same time frame in 2014-15, a total of \$51,075 had been received.

Specifically, income for fiscal year 2014-15 had December receipts of \$9,720, January receipts of \$9,765, February revenues of \$7,155, March revenues of \$8,235, April revenues of \$5,715, May revenues of \$5,625, June with \$4,860, July with \$4,185, August with \$5,490, September with \$6,300, October with \$7,110 and November with \$6,750.

Allen explained the reasons for the loss to members of the Board.

“There's a couple issues here,” Allen said. “There's starting to be a shortage of U.S. Marshal prisoners. There's not the federal indictments coming down, some of the drug charges and the ones that are not taking the federal those prisoners are not there.”

The second issue, Allen, was a U.S. Marshal prisoner who claimed he was being treated unfairly by one of the female correctional officers at the Justice

Center. The prisoner allegedly made accusations about inappropriate comments made to him and other issues. Allen added an internal investigation was launched and the JCSO was cleared of any issues.

Allen further said every time a complaint is made against a correctional officer, the U.S. Marshal's have to come back to the facility for an inspection; the the federal service can then decide whether to house inmates again. Allen reported the U.S. Marshal's were at the Jefferson County Justice Center last week and reported no wrongdoing was found.

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