

Response to Questions on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Frey

Question: Provide a count of prisoners housed in the County jail for other jurisdictions, the estimated cost of housing them and the estimated revenue to be recovered.

Response: As of mid-April 2008, there were 13 prisoners held for other local jurisdictions, 47 held for the Commonwealth, and 4 held for the Federal Government for a total of 64 inmates held for others. This represents 4.7 percent of the 1,356 current inmates. Prisoners held for Fairfax City, Vienna, or Herndon and the Adult Detention Center (ADC) are not included because Fairfax County is considered their local jail.

In FY 2007, there were 4,020 inmate days held for other localities, 2,133 inmate days held for the Federal Government and an estimated 27,128 inmate days held for the Commonwealth for a total of 33,281 inmate days. This represents about 7 percent of the ADC population. In FY 2007, it cost (gross) an estimated \$141.47 per inmate day to house an inmate in Fairfax. At 33,281 inmate days, the total cost is \$4,708,263, of which \$4,139,554 is federal/state and \$568,709 is for other localities. Of this total, the County collected \$3,727,349 from the federal/state Government, or 79.2 percent based on current federal/state reimbursement practices.

The Sheriff's Office does not collect funds from other localities because the other localities do not bill the County for Fairfax County prisoners they hold. It is likely that localities are holding more prisoners for Fairfax each year than the County holds for them, merely because of the size of Fairfax. It should be noted that funds are recovered from Fairfax City based on an existing agreement with the City; however, since the ADC is their local jail, this amount is not included in the total noted above.

The shared use of other local jurisdiction jails is a "mutual aid" type of arrangement. For example, if Fairfax Police capture an inmate wanted in Stafford, the police do not drive the prisoner to Stafford; they drive the prisoner to the Fairfax ADC where they are held until Stafford comes up to claim their inmate. The same is true in reverse. This type of mutual support accounts for by far the greatest number of inmate days for other locations. Except in rare instances, prisoners are picked up in less than six days. It should be noted that there are no cases where Fairfax County holds prisoners for other localities because the other locality is overcrowded.