



1108 S. BROADWAY
LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS 66048
(913) 912-3459

JEFF PITTMAN

Dear Members of the Lansing City Commission,

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for your dedicated service to our community. As fellow public servants, we understand the importance of our work, often carried out without recognition, yet always aimed at the betterment of our community. It is in this spirit of collaboration that I write to you today.

I am advocating for the allocation of \$35,000 annually for the next four years from the Hotel and Tourism Fund to support the establishment of the new Lansing Prison Museum. This request is made in the spirit of the former non-profit, the Regional Prison Museum, whose funds were entrusted to the City of Lansing for discretionary use. Now, in a gesture of giving back to the vision of that original non-profit, we seek seed money to ensure the new Lansing Prison Museum can become self-sustaining.

The Lansing Historical Society has recently been granted exclusive rights by the State of Kansas to conduct tours of the historic retired Lansing Correctional Facility, effectively fulfilling a significant portion of the original mission of the Kansas Regional Prison Museum (KRPM). To provide some background, the funds for KRPM were established around 2006 and accumulated through a series of fundraisers and donations from individuals and corporations, often in partnership with the Lansing Historical Society. These funds were given as memorial gifts specifically intended to support the development of a museum and tours highlighting the 150-year history of the penitentiary, including narratives about guards, notable events like Johnny Cash's visit, the darker aspects involving executions, and other significant stories that have shaped Lansing, Leavenworth, and the surrounding areas.

Given the Lansing Historical Society's readiness to lead this initiative, I respectfully request that the City Commission consider allocating \$35,000 annually for the next four years from the Hotel and Tourism Fund. This funding would serve as seed money to help the Lansing Prison Museum become self-sustaining, honoring the legacy of KRPM while embracing future opportunities. The state has already committed substantial resources to this project and will likely continue to ensure its success in this nascent stage until it becomes a self-sustaining entity, contributing to local tourism and preserving an important aspect of Kansas's history.

The financial model for the Lansing Prison Museum is inspired by the highly successful Missouri Penitentiary Museum, which now generates over \$1 million annually. With my efforts in the State Senate, we have secured more than \$490,000 in the 2024-25 budget for structural stabilization, and an additional \$75,000 for general use or content development.

The Kansas Historical Society has also expressed strong support for this project moving forward and is willing to offer assistance, including discussing bringing back relevant artifacts to Lansing. This funding would mark the beginning of a new era for Lansing tourism, while honoring the KRPM's legacy while embracing future opportunities. Your decision to approve this funding would not only help ensure the project's success but also demonstrate a commitment to preserving our shared history for future generations.



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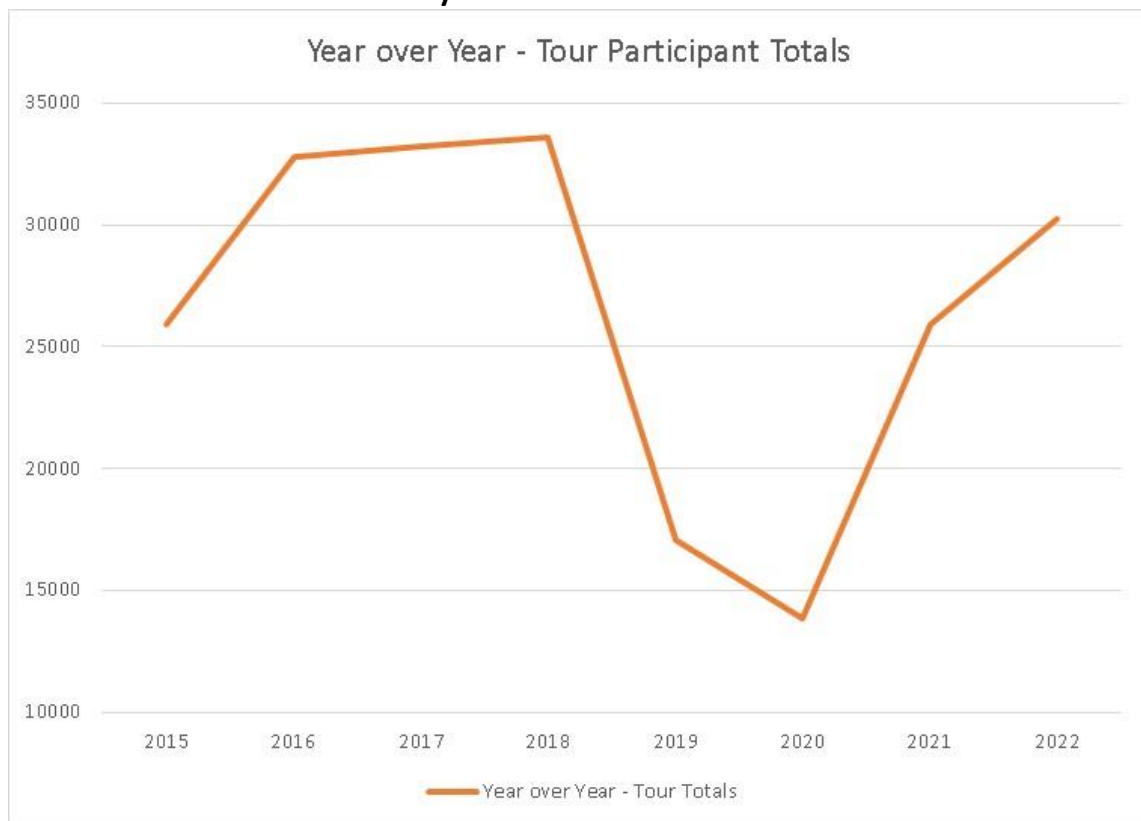
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Thank you for your consideration of this important matter. The Lansing Historical Society is in full support, as noted by their attached letter, and is moving forward rapidly, with an initial tour planned for September 12, 2024. They continue to build out tour content, recruit guides, and put infrastructure in place. I am confident that, together, we can make this project a reality and continue to build on the strong foundation already in place.

Sincerely,

Senator Jeff Pittman
jeff.pittman@senate.ks.gov

Missouri State Penitentiary Numbers





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Missouri State Penitentiary Numbers 2022 Revenue Breakdown : \$883k

Missouri State Penitentiary - Museum Tours 2022	30233	\$883,990
<i>Tour Item</i>	<i>Visitors</i>	<i>Total Paid</i>
2-Hour Ghost Tour	6581	\$215,877
2-Hour History Tour	10229	\$237,113
3-Hour Ghost Hunt	1375	\$57,800
3-Hour In-Depth History Tour	1157	\$38,319
3-Hour Mystery Tour - Tour With The Past	109	\$3,361
3-Hour Photo Tour	8	\$340
5-Hour Overnight Paranormal Investigation	423	\$29,843
8-Hour Overnight Paranormal Investigation	184	\$18,366
Ghost Hunts USA - Private Event	15	\$30,000
Gift Card	64	\$4,675
Private 1-Hour Prison Tour	94	\$940
Private 1-Hour MEGA Student History Tour	1171	\$5,705
Private 1-Hour Student Ghost Tour	212	\$2,055
Private 1-Hour Student History Tour	937	\$4,520
Private 2-Hour Ghost Tour	441	\$13,825
Private 2-Hour History Tour	477	\$7,400
Private 2-Hour MEGA Ghost Tour	190	\$6,580
Private 2-Hour MEGA Student History Tour	1996	\$22,392
Private 2-Hour Photo Session	12	\$420
Private 2-Hour Student History Tour	1520	\$17,316
Private 3-Hour In-Depth History Tour	26	\$910
Private 3-Hour Photo Tour	58	\$2,530
Private 5-Hour Overnight Investigation	60	\$4,500
Private 5-Hour Photo Tour	14	\$805
Private 8-Hour Overnight Investigation	222	\$22,200
Private 8-Hour Photography Tour	18	\$1,440
Private Film Project	63	\$3,150
Private Paranormal Event	2	\$4,500
Walls Still Talk – Overnight Investigation with MSP Staff	99	\$9,362
Museum Only	2476	\$117,748



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