

To: Steve Rapson

From: Sheryl Weinmann and Finance staff

Date: February 20, 2026

Subject: Jail Inmate Daily Rate

During the 2025 retreat, Finance discussed the impact of the current inmate daily rate on the Fayette County budget. Using FY2025 figures as an example, a transfer of \$325,000 was necessary to bring the Jail Surcharge Fund into a positive position. Over the past five years, the County's General Fund has contributed more than \$1.28 million to support this fund.

At present, the jail inmate daily rate represents approximately 68.6% of the calculated full cost. In FY2023, the rate increased from \$50.00 to \$57.60, reflecting a 15.2% increase. Updated FY2025 calculations indicate the full cost (100% rate) is \$96.16 per inmate per day.

Municipalities are currently exempt from paying both the first and last day of confinement. However, most intake-related costs occur on the first day, including hygiene kits, booking supplies, and staff time. Staff recommends revising the policy, so municipalities are responsible for the first day, with exemption applying only to the last day. In situations where the first day is also the last day, municipalities would be billed for that single day.

Based on FY2025 data, the following daily rate options were evaluated:

- **100% Rate:** \$96.16
- **85% Rate:** \$81.74
- **75% Rate:** \$72.12

Estimated revenues under each scenario show that while the 75% rate produces less savings than the higher options, it still improves cost recovery and is considered a more reasonable reimbursement level for municipal partners. Notably, even the 100% rate would still require some level of General Fund support to maintain a positive Jail Surcharge Fund balance.

Fiscal Year	2025	2025	2025
	Pay first day	Pay first day	Pay first day
	@ 100% Rate	@ 85% Rate	@ 75% Rate
	66.9%	41.9%	25.2%
	\$96.16	\$81.74	\$72.12
Total Proposed Collections	\$ 195,858.69	\$ 166,479.88	\$ 146,894.02
Actual Collections	\$ 52,070.40	\$ 52,070.40	\$ 52,070.40
Increase in Collections	\$ 143,788.29	\$ 114,409.48	\$ 94,823.62
Transfers from General Fund	\$ 325,000.00	\$ 325,000.00	\$ 325,000.00
Proposed Transfer	\$ 181,211.71	\$ 210,590.52	\$ 230,176.38
Savings	\$ 143,788.29	\$ 114,409.48	\$ 94,823.62

Staff Recommendations

- Increase the inmate daily rate from **\$57.60 to \$72.12** (a **25.2% increase**).
- Revise the billing exemption so that **only the last day** of confinement is exempt, with municipalities responsible for the **first day**, including cases where the first day is also the last day.