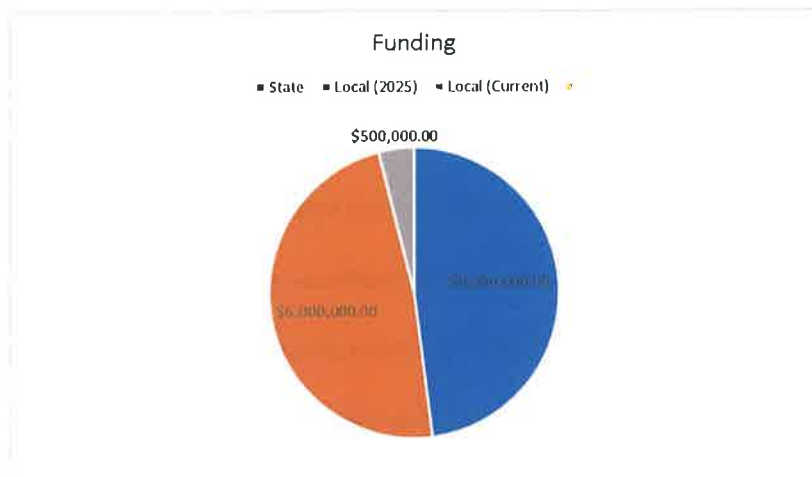


County Cannot Support Funding with Local Levy

- 2nd Smallest County in MN (Pop. =3,763 but the 16th largest county in the state by square area, 1,300 square miles)
- 2025 County budget is \$17,372,569 with a local levy of \$3,444,700.
 - Estimated project cost (2019) was \$15 million + (county bonding for 20 years = 35% levy increase)
 - High tax on low tax base when population triples during peak tourism months.
 - Only feasible way to pay for the project was to have the voters approve a Local Sales Tax. However, in 2019, the legislature changed the process and before the county could hold such a referendum, the County would have to seek special legislation first. The County did have this ready to be heard by legislature in 2020 and then COVID-19 postponed everything.

'Lake of the Woods County urgently requests \$6 million in the 2025 legislative session for the Lake of the Woods County Law Enforcement Center to build the smallest, least expensive (compliant) jail in MN.'



New Law Enforcement Center Will Provide:

- Increase public safety by keeping law enforcement officers in the County.
- Increase participation in work programs to reduce repeat offenders and support community.
- Indoor recreation gym.
- Potential opportunity to assist other counties and cities.

Consequences of DOC Mandates

- The existing facility is limited to a 72-hour hold facility due to DOC mandates. Requiring transports using already limited resources and taking law enforcement officers off streets.
- In years past, on average more than 13 % of our incarcerated population have been able to participate in Sentence to Serve or Huber work programs. (Currently less than 5% participate)
- 75% of total confinement days have been served outside of our county in 2024. This is limiting access to our local community support groups and reentry service.

This project will provide a new Enforcement Center (under 10,000 SF) for Lake of the Woods County in Baudette, MN.

- Current facility supports 8 cells (under DOC mandates); new facility will support 10-12 beds
- The single story, steel framed structure will consist of insulated precast wall panels and metal stud framing on the exterior walls. Metal roof decking will cover the non-secure side of the building, whereas precast plank will cover the detention side.
- Concrete masonry unit blocks (CMU) interior walls will be prevalent in the detention area along with ten prefabricated steel cell and toilet modules. The administrative side of the building will feature offices for the law enforcement, evidence and case file storage, a squad room, and a library.
- The detention side will have individual holding cells and the minimum, dormitory style holding areas, an indoor recreation gym, dispatch, and jail control areas, as well as a sallyport with accompanying intake and release areas.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED | Lake of the Woods County Requests \$6M for New (Compliant) Law Enforcement Center



SF XXXX; UTKE/GREEN

HF XXXX; Duran

In June of 2022, the Lake of the Woods County Law Enforcement center was forced to become a 72-hour holding facility due to noncompliance with Department of Commerce mandates.

The nearest facility is 2 hours away.

The lack of public safety infrastructure has critical implications:

- Currently contracting with Pennington County for guaranteed housing of up to three inmates (only County able to guarantee responsibility for inmates)
- The approximate distance is 120 miles each way, 240 miles round trip. In ideal conditions, transportation is two hours and fifteen minutes each way.
- 7 licensed peace officers including the Sheriff/Chief Deputy Sheriff and no city police departments in the County, the ability to serve and protect is on life support.
- Typically, two officers are on duty and if one officer is required to transport an inmate it leaves the county with 1 officer for $\frac{3}{4}$ day (pending weather conditions) which severely impacts public safety, officer security and requires off-duty officers to be on standby.
- The County depends on tourism (40 resorts exist on the Lake and the population triples during peak season).

