



George County Board of Supervisors
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GC Supervisors Work Session expands to tour of County Jail

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County Supervisors took an extended walking tour of the County's Jail as part of a financial Work Session on Monday. Warden Bobby Fairly and staff members lead supervisors through both the County and State sides of inmate housing along with visits to the control center, kitchen, infirmary and maintenance department.

"We had several facility and utility questions which could only be answered in person," Supervisor

Larry McDonald, Board President explained. "The supervisors also needed to see firsthand the differences between housing requirements for State Inmates and County Inmates."

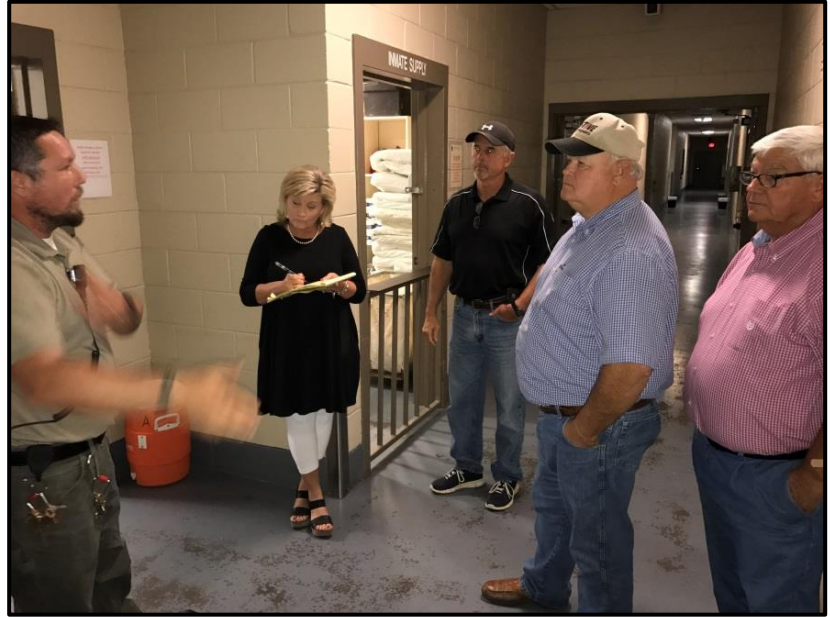
Supervisors Fred Croom, Kelly Wright, Larry McDonald, Larry Havard, and Henry Cochran, along with Chancery Clerk Cammie Byrd, took part in the Work Session tour. Fairly and Mark McMillan, Jail Maintenance Department, answered a majority of the supervisor's questions.

The County's Jail has experienced significant revenue losses since March 2016 when the Mississippi Department of Corrections transferred approximately 80 State Inmates into privately owned jails and other state facilities. The State's move cut almost 30 percent of the jail's inmate revenue.



The County's Jail reached a tipping point earlier this month after the entire reserve cash fund was used during the previous 14 months. If the jail's finances were left unchecked, the facility will lose more than \$860,000 in revenue by the end of fiscal year 2017.

"This jail tour is just part of the Board's process in developing a 'Financial Strategy' to keep the County Jail open without raising property taxes. We must look at all the options and alternatives for a long term solution," McDonald said.



The Board's "Financial Strategy" for the jail includes the possibility of increasing funding for County inmates, reducing payroll costs, revamping personnel policy, taking advantage of new Medicaid savings, reducing utility costs and cutting back on inmate privileges.

Supervisors anticipate having to move another \$75,000 to \$100,000 from the General Emergency Fund in two weeks to meet the County's Jail payroll and financial requirements. The Board plans to complete its "Financial Strategy" with recommendations in June.

Cutline:

- The Jail's Kitchen was one of the first stops during the supervisors' tour of the County Jail. L to R: Larry McDonald, Henry Cochran, and Fred Croom.
- County Supervisors tour the County Jail's Infirmary during a financial Work Session on May 22. L to R: Henry Cochran, Kelly Wright, Larry McDonald, and Larry Havard.
- Maintenance Department's Mark McMillan takes questions from Supervisors during a walking tour of the County's Jail. L to R: McMillan, Cammie Byrd, Larry McDonald, Henry Cochran and Fred Croom.

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