



George County Board of Supervisors
Community Development Office
Ken Flanagan, Director
Office: 601-247-2104
Email: kflanagan@georgecountymiss.gov

GC Supervisors forced to transfer \$100,000 into Jail Fund

Release Date: 05/02/17

The George County Board of Supervisors was forced to transfer \$100,000 from the County's Emergency Reserve Fund into the Regional Jail Fund to cover expenses for the month of May.

The County's Jail has seen significant revenue losses since March 2016 when the MS Department of Corrections transferred approximately 80 State Inmates into privately owned jails and other facilities. The State's move cut more than 30 percent of the County jail's operating income.

The County Jail reached its tipping point this month after using all reserve cash funds over the last 14 months.

"This situation is going to break this County financially. We are in a debt spiral that we cannot break out of, if something does not change," Supervisor Henry Cochran, Beat 5 said. "I know this sounds like a broken record but this has got to change."

The Board approved the \$100,000 transfer with a 4-0 vote and continued deep discussion on the issue during a prolonged afternoon meeting with the Jail's Warden and Sheriff.

Several cost saving measures have been implemented at the County Jail over the last year. The County has also made political efforts and negotiated with the Department of Corrections. None of those efforts were enough to overcome the jail's monthly shortfalls ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

"I knew this day was coming. We all did. I am speaking only for myself, I will not support a tax increase and I don't think anyone on this Board is in favor of raising taxes. We are going to have to look at every option to avoid raising taxes," Board President Larry McDonald said.

The Board and the Sheriff discussed several hard hitting cost options ranging from downsizing staff to closing down the state side of the facility.

"If we are going to go into debt, let's do it for the County side of the jail and not for the State side," Supervisor Larry Havard said.

The Board recessed the meeting until next Tuesday, May 9, at 8 a.m. to continue working on solutions.

###