

From the Office of the Sheriff: "Contracted Services save Precious Dollars"

The Dodge County Detention Facility houses an average daily population of 450 men and woman of which 75% are federal boarders. As one can imagine, there are a meals which need to be prepared, medical services provided, as well as canteen services. These services are significant and it is our best interest to provide these services in a professional manner, all of which we contract out to third parties.

Our food service provided is Aramark, tasked with providing 1400 meals per day for around \$1.20 per meal. Aramark provides a dietician who schedules meals and ensures rations contain 2,500 calories per day. Aramark also caters to special diets for medical conditions as well as satisfying some of our cultural issues due to our diverse inmate population. We augment their food service staff with inmate labor, providing them some culinary training for post-incarceration employment.

Medical needs and providing for these needs is not an easy task. Years ago we decided to contract with Correctional Health Care (CHC) to provide all our health services. From medication to x-rays and emergency room visits our contract limits the counties exposure to major medical claims. The staff consists of a physician, Registered Nurses and others who tend to the issues of the inmate population and also conducts the physical examinations for new employees. CHC does a wonderful job and provides professional staff, experienced in the corrections field.

In an effort to generate revenue we contract out our canteen services. This is a service where inmates with funds can order candy, personal hygiene items, and snacks. The list of items is considerable, diverse, and all items pre-approved by security staff. Our contractor, Swanson, takes the orders and makes the deliveries directly to the inmate. In exchange, we receive a small percentage of the sales which is then used to compensate our inmate labor used in our kitchen and laundry, saving valuable tax dollars. The hundreds of pounds of dirty laundry generated daily is washed, dried, and folded by 100% inmate labor. The savings are immeasurable.

The benefits of contracting are endless with reduced costs a primary driver to contracting out these services. The contractor has responsibility for hiring and discipline as well as training for work in a correctional setting. My staff meets regularly with the contract providers and managers to discuss any issues which arise. This is critical our success as we receive numerous inspections annually and meals and medical services are a main focus.

Most importantly, these contracts contribute to our competitive rate for housing our federal boarders, generating \$10 million in 2011. As taxpayer resources become more and more limited, savvy managers will explore more and more services to contract out, reducing county personnel, personnel costs, and allowing staff to focus their attention on the security of the facility. We are very pleased with our all our contractors, Aramark, Swanson, and CHC, and consider them great partners in our operations. Thanks for listening, [tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us](mailto:tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us) or @sheriffnehls on Twitter