



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 05/01/17

Sheriff Announces 2017/2018 Budget Initiatives

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Sheriff Eddie Farris continues to enhance the professionalism and efficiency of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) in 2017 with a focus on improving jail operations.

In order to fulfill PCSO's mission to serve and protect the citizens of Putnam County, the Sheriff's Office is seeking additional funding from the county commission in the 2017/2018 budget due to the growth of the county and the necessity of more services.

Since 2000, we have seen a 22% population increase, and Putnam County is estimated to grow at least another 13% by 2020. As the county continues to grow, so does the cost of living for its citizens. The cost to operate and maintain the jail has gone up as well. In 2016, the average cost to house a Tennessee Department of Corrections offender was \$76.82 per day. That does not include the extra money the PCSO pays in overage charges, which from fiscal year to date amounts to \$16,407.42. This overage is a direct result of exceeding the agreed number of inmates in the jail's medical contract.

National guidelines state that PCSO should have a ratio of 1 Correction Deputy per 17 inmates. Putnam County currently has 1 Correction Deputy per 45 inmates. According to Jim Hart of the County Technical Advisory Service (CTAS) of the State of Tennessee, in November 2013 Putnam County was down 4 deputies per shift or a total of 16 deputies in the jail. That was when the jail averaged 239 inmates. The current average is 355 inmates, yet Corrections Deputy numbers have remained the same.

"We are requesting a modest portion so that we can continue to provide the level of law enforcement, corrections, and criminal justice services our citizens deserve and have come to expect from us," said Sheriff Farris.

The funding will be used to hire 5 new Corrections Deputies and address medical and food costs that occur with increases in inmate population.

"The Putnam County Commission has always been supportive of our office," said Sheriff Farris. "We are a team committed to working for the benefit of our community. I believe that we can make these changes without additional burden to taxpayers. I want to thank our commissioners for their support and patience as we work our way through a new budget. I would also like to thank the citizens of our county for their input, cooperation and concerns regarding the needs of our Sheriff's Office. Putnam County is a

"Earning the Public's Trust Every Day!"

wonderful place to live and raise a family.”

#

Media contact:

Laura Hull, PIO

sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

“Earning the Public’s Trust Every Day!”