



COUNTY OF SONOMA

575 ADMINISTRATION
DRIVE, ROOM 102A
SANTA ROSA, CA 95403

SUMMARY REPORT

Agenda Date: 7/11/2023

To: Board of Supervisors

Department or Agency Name(s): Sheriff's Office

Staff Name and Phone Number: Sharon Post, 565-1119

Vote Requirement: Informational Only

Supervisorial District(s): Countywide

Title:

Inmate Welfare Trust Fund Annual Report

Recommended Action:

Receive the Fiscal Year 21-22 Inmate Welfare Trust Fund Annual Report. The funds described in this Report support programs for the benefit, education, and welfare of incarcerated persons confined within the Sonoma County adult detention facilities.

Executive Summary:

California Penal Code Section 4025(e) requires an itemized annual report of expenses of the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Accordingly, the FY 21-22 Inmate Welfare Trust Fund Annual Report is attached for the Board's information and review.

Discussion:

California Penal Code Section 4025 authorizes the Sheriff to operate a jail store and to deposit any profit in an inmate welfare fund.

The Sheriff's Office Detention Division operates a store, known as Commissary, in the county jail. The Commissary is operated through the Jail Stores Trust Fund. Providing commissary service is not mandated. The Sheriff's Office provides at no cost to incarcerated persons three nutritionally balanced meals each day; clothing; medical, dental, and mental health services; incentives for positive behavior; and many essential hygiene items. The Commissary provides a supplemental opportunity for incarcerated individuals to purchase additional items that are not otherwise routinely available. All net revenues from the operation of the Commissary are deposited in the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund held in the County Treasury, per California Penal Code Section 4025(b). Section 4025(d) specifies that any money, refund, rebate or commission received from a telephone company for services provided to incarcerated persons shall also be deposited in the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund.

California Penal Code Section 4025(e) requires that money deposited in the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund shall be expended by the Sheriff primarily for the benefit, education, and welfare of incarcerated persons confined within the jail. Expenditures may include the salary and benefits of personnel used in the programs to benefit the inmates, including, but not limited to, education, drug and alcohol treatment, welfare, library, accounting, and other programs deemed appropriate by the Sheriff.

The Trust is administered through the Inmate Welfare Trust Committee which includes the Detention Administrative Services Officer II (Chair), Detention Administration Captain, Detention Operations Captain, Detention Research and Planning Lieutenant, Detention Classification Lieutenant, Inmate Programs Sergeant, Inmate Programs Analyst, Sheriff's Accounting Manager, and two civilian representatives. The use of the Fund is guided by policy and procedures developed in accordance with relevant laws. Audits are completed every two years by the County Auditor Controller Treasure Tax Collector (ACTTC).

The Inmate Welfare Trust Committee recognizes the volatility of the Fund's revenue sources and takes seriously its responsibility to protect the Fund and use it only to benefit incarcerated persons. As detailed in the Annual Report, a range of educational, vocational, recreational, and support services and supplies are funded by the Inmate Welfare Trust Fund. Two Sheriff's Office staff positions (the Inmate Programs Correctional Deputy and Inmate Programs Administrative Aide) are also funded by the Trust. With the Programs Sergeant, they provide both mandated and non-mandated services, working with community partners and Detention Operations to facilitate the delivery of academic and other classes/services/activities.

History

Prior to the Public Safety Realignment initiative in 2011, Inmate Welfare Trust revenue shortfalls required the County General Fund to subsidize jail programs in the County's adult detention facilities. Additionally, in 2013, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ordered a cap on phone rates in all prisons and jails, followed by a series of court challenges and legislative proposals that created uncertainty for the future of phone commission and commissary revenue. On August 19, 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) adopted an interim phone call rate cap that eliminated phone commission revenue to the Inmate Welfare Trust, effective October 7, 2021. In response to this revenue instability, the Inmate Welfare Trust Committee seeks to maintain a significant reserve in the event fund balance is needed to offset declining revenue.

FY 21-22 Financial Summary

The Inmate Welfare Trust received \$291,313 in revenue (including \$230,000 transferred from the Jail Stores Trust) and spent \$548,251 with a net cost to the Trust of \$256,938. The ending fund balance was \$1,406,395.

The Jail Stores Trust received \$960,493 in revenue and recorded \$904,255 in expenditures (including \$230,000 transferred to the Inmate Welfare Trust) with a net cost of \$(56,238). The ending fund balance was \$147,217.

See the attached FY 21-22 Annual Report for details on both Trusts.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Racial Equity:

Was this item identified as an opportunity to apply the Racial Equity Toolkit?

No

Prior Board Actions:

Acceptance of the Inmate Welfare Trust Annual Report for the last 19 years, most recently on November 16, 2021.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Expenditures	FY 22-23 Adopted	FY23-24 Projected	FY 24-25 Projected
Budgeted Expenses			
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures			
Funding Sources			
General Fund/WA GF			
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources			

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

Acceptance is requested for a prior year fiscal report which serves as a historical record for the Inmate Welfare Trust and Jail Stores Trust. The item has no fiscal impact.

Staffing Impacts:			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A-I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)

Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):

N/A

Attachments:

FY 21-22 Inmate Welfare Trust Annual Report

Related Items "On File" with the Clerk of the Board:

N/A