



# Pulaski County

F.G. "BUDDY" VILLINES  
COUNTY JUDGE / CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
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November 27, 2012

Honorable Mark Stodola  
City of Little Rock  
City Hall, Room 203  
Little Rock, AR 72201

CITIES

ALEXANDER

Honorable Patrick Hays  
City of North Little Rock

CAMMACK VILLAGE

P.O. Box 5757  
North Little Rock, AR 72119

JACKSONVILLE

LITTLE ROCK

MAUMELLE

Honorable Gary Fletcher  
City of Jacksonville

NORTH LITTLE ROCK

SHERWOOD

P.O. Box 126  
Jacksonville, AR 72076

WRIGHTSVILLE

Honorable Virginia Hillman  
City of Sherwood  
P.O. Box 6256  
Sherwood, AR 72124

UNINCORPORATED  
AREA

600 SQUARE MILES

Honorable Mike Watson  
City of Maumelle  
550 Edgewood, Suite 590  
Maumelle, AR 72113

Dear Mayors:

MILITARY  
BASES

This letter is written in response to your letter of November 19, 2012 regarding the funding of 80 additional jail beds in 2013. Having read your letter, it is my understanding that the cities are proposing to provide \$544,053, or 85% of the total \$640,000 requested. You state that you have arrived at the figure because the 2011 actual jail expenditures were 15% less than the budgeted amount. While I want to thank you for your efforts at arriving at this proposal, I believe that there are several factors that this proposal fails to consider.

LRAFB

CAMP ROBINSON

First, the 2011 figures are wrong, outdated, and irrelevant. A look at the 2011 figures reveals that \$20,662,316 was budgeted for the Detention Facility (Dept. 2400) and \$3,447,190 was budgeted for Jail Medical (Dept. 2401) making the total budget for the jail \$24,109,506. The total expenditures for 2011 were \$18,888,724 for Dept. 2400 (91%) and \$3,049,034 for Dept. 2401 (88%). That is a total expenditure of \$21,937,756, or 91%, of the amount budgeted for jail purposes in 2011.

A look at the 2012 figures reveals that \$21,772,306 was budgeted for the Detention Facility (Dept. 2400) and \$3,491,651 was budgeted for Jail Medical (Dept. 2401) making the total budget for the jail \$25,263,957. To date, the total expenditures for 2012 are \$19,498,698 for Dept. 2400 (90%) and \$2,886,142 for Dept. 2401 (83%). That is a total expenditure of \$22,384,840, or 89%, of the amount budgeted for jail purposes in 2012. The estimated payroll for the remaining portion of the year will total \$973,196 for Dept. 2400 and \$94,456 for Dept. 2401. That brings the expenditure to \$20,471,894 (94%) for Dept. 2400 and \$2,980,598 (85%), or \$23,452,492 (93%). These figures do not include any maintenance and operation expenditures for the latter part of November and all of December. Adding those amounts will bring the expenditures closer to 100% of the amount budgeted.

Admittedly, Pulaski County always budgets for the "worst case scenario" when it comes to the jail medical budget. As noted above, only 88% of the total budgeted amount was expended in 2011 and only 83% of the budget has been spent to date in 2012. It should be noted, however, that this is not always the case. It only takes one or two seriously ill inmates for the entire amount budgeted for medical care to be consumed. While Pulaski County takes its role as a steward of public funds very seriously and tries to minimize all costs to our taxpayers, we must take the inmates as we find them and provide any appropriate care while they are in our custody. To lump medical costs in with daily operations when calculating the percentage of total expenditures skews the result in a downward manner.

The amount budgeted for total jail expenses in 2011 and 2012 is roughly \$24,000,000. The amounts expended in both years average roughly \$22,600,000. The Cities contributed \$2,646,292 in both years. That amounts to roughly 12% of the total cost that is necessary to provide the "strong and economically viable jail" that we have all agreed is necessary in this community. You state in your letter that "the county typically uses budget surpluses for various other county priorities," and that you "should be contributing to the actual expenditure costs of the Jail, not the budgeted amount." Based upon what I believe to be an unfair assessment of Pulaski County's practices, I feel it only fair to remind you that Pulaski County, while routinely funding 88% of the cost of maintaining the current jail facilities, funded the entire jail expansion without any contribution from the cities. The jail was expanded due to the requests of law enforcement, the mayors (particularly of the larger cities), and the recommendation of the UALR Jail Task Force. The total amount expended by the county was \$4,133,132 without the

participation of the cities. Would this be one of the various other county priorities to which you refer?

In the 1990 interlocal agreement for jail funding, the cities acknowledged "the shortage of operational revenues of Pulaski County because of a decreasing County tax base" and agreed that City funds should be "made available to the County to assist in the operation of a new regional jail." In the 1993 amendment to that same agreement, it was agreed that if "costs have increased disproportionate to available funding, the terms of the Agreement, as amended, will be renegotiated to reflect the actual costs of operation and realistic annual payments needed from the Cities." That agreement and the funding contained therein was based upon an 800-bed core facility with growth potential. As you are all aware, the jail has consistently exceeded 800 inmates almost from the moment it was opened.

We have all come together in the past to negotiate funding to make it possible for Pulaski County to house more than the 800 inmates contemplated in the original agreement. We are asking your cooperation to increase that number once again to 1210 beds. As I explained in my letter dated October 31, 2012, the county simply cannot afford to assume more than one-third of the cost of opening the additional beds, or \$320,000. Unfortunately, your proposal would leave us with insufficient funds to go forward with opening the additional beds.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter. The Quorum Court will hold its final 2012 meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we must make sure that a balanced budget is in place. Without a commitment from all of you for the \$640,000 we have requested, we will have to amend the current proposed budget to remove the cost of the 80 additional beds in order to meet that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buddy Villines". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Buddy Villines  
County Judge/Chief Executive Officer

Attachment

Jail Budget and Expenditures

2011			2012				
Dept.	Budget	Expenditures	Percentage	Dept.	Budget	Expenditures	Percentage
2400	\$20,662,316.00	\$18,888,724.00	91%	2400	\$21,772,306.00	\$19,498,698.00	90%
2401	\$3,447,190.00	\$3,049,033.00	88%	2401	\$3,491,651.00	\$2,886,142.00	83%
	<u>\$24,109,506.00</u>	<u>\$21,937,757.00</u>	91%		<u>\$25,263,957.00</u>	<u>\$22,384,840.00</u>	89%
				2400*	\$21,772,306.00	\$20,471,894.00	94%
				2401*	\$3,491,651.00	\$2,980,598.00	85%
					<u>\$25,263,957.00</u>	<u>\$23,452,492.00</u>	93%

\* includes payroll for remainder of year