



*Office of*  
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY  
ATTORNEY**

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Dylan Reingold, County Attorney  
William K. DeBraal, Deputy County Attorney

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Dylan Reingold, County Attorney  
**DATE:** June 25, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Pretrial Services Update

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**BACKGROUND.**

St. Lucie County has a Pretrial Program which provides a number of different services, such as GPS monitoring, curfew and house arrest compliance, establishing exclusion zones and drug and alcohol testing. The pretrial program is utilized by judges as an alternative to having a defendant spend time before trial in jail. St. Lucie County provides this service to Okeechobee County and Martin County.

On May 14, 2019, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners authorized the County Attorney's Office to work with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office and the St. Lucie County Pretrial Program on gathering a more definitive cost estimate for providing services in Indian River County.

Since May 14, 2019, I had a meeting with County Administrator Jason Brown; Kristin Daniels, Budget Director; representatives from the Indian River County Sheriff's Office; Roy Hudson from St. Lucie County; Judge Metzger and Judge Cox. I have also attended a walkthrough of the courthouse with Mr. Hudson, Cindy Carlsward (check spelling, but I think it has a second "a" from the Clerk of Court, Judge Cox and representatives from Facilities Management.

St. Lucie County has since then submitted to me the attached draft proposal. The draft proposal would be for \$198,600 per year. Under the program, Indian River County would provide the following:

1. Office space in the Indian River County Courthouse along with desks and chairs.
2. A vehicle in good serviceable condition with access to fuel, maintenance and insurance.
3. Two office phones.
4. Point of contact with Indian River County.
5. Point of contact at the County jail.
6. Security Clearances for staff at the Courthouse and Jail.
7. Printer-Copier-Fax machine. Paper, ink, supplies and maintenance.
8. Two workstation computers and maintenance for same.

If Indian River County is unable to provide the vehicle, the cost proposal would go up around \$25,000. If St. Lucie County provides the vehicle, St. Lucie County would like to use an Indian River County facility for fuel.

It was estimated that Indian River County would save a total of \$200,000 per year. The estimated savings is based upon a total 4,500 bed days, which was determined using the number of first appearances, provided by the Sheriff's Office, at a 14% to 15% pretrial services usage rate, which is consistent with the Martin County and St. Lucie County percentage.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office position on the implementation and funding of the Pretrial Program is unclear.

If the Board decides to move forward with establishing a pretrial services program, Facilities Management will need to create an office area within the courthouse to house the program.

**FUNDING.**

The source of funding and responsibility for implementing the Pretrial Program has not been resolved. Therefore, no funding is currently included under the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners' portion of the 2019/2020 proposed budget for the Pretrial Program.

**RECOMMENDATION.**

The County Attorney's Office seeks further guidance from the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners on the implementation of the Pretrial Program.

**ATTACHMENT(S).**

Proposal for Pretrial Program Services for Indian River County