



Court Services
454 West 6th Street
Red Wing, MN 55066



To: Goodhue County Board of Commissioners
From: Rhonda VanSchoonhoven, Director, Court Services
Date: October 27, 2025
Subject: Juvenile Detention Bed Utilization and Contract Update

Dear Commissioners,

From January 1 through October 27, 2025, Court Services has utilized the contracted juvenile detention bed with Houston County for a total of 121 nights. The annual contract amount is \$91,250, which equates to \$250 per night if the bed were used every day of the year. The actual usage of the bed is detailed below.

January: 13 nights
February: 23 nights
March: 20 nights
April: 0 nights
May: 25 nights
June: 10 nights
July: 7 nights
August: 4 nights
September: 11 nights
October: 8 nights (as of 10/29)

When pro-rated for the 10-month period covered so far (approximately \$76,041.70 in cost), the effective rate for the 121 nights used is approximately \$628.44 per night.

While Houston County has provided a consistent and reliable placement option, the transportation distance continues to present challenges. Law enforcement has experienced staffing shortages that limit their ability to complete these transports, resulting in several Apprehend and Detain (A&D) orders not being served due to travel time constraints.

2026 Houston County Bed Rates:

- Contracted Bed: \$250 per night
- Additional Contracted Bed (as needed): \$325 per night
- Non-Contracted Bed: \$400 per night



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Comparison of Other 2026 Facility Rates:

- **Anoka County:** \$455 per night
- **Dakota County:** \$475 per night (2026 rate for both detention and treatment beds)
- **Washington County (East Central/Lino Lakes):** \$455 per night
- **West Central (Moorhead):**
 - Secure Detention – \$375 per night
 - Secure Residential Treatment (without mental health services) – \$375 per night
 - Secure Residential Treatment (with mental health services) – \$417 per night
 - Secure Residential Treatment with Pathways Programming (for youth with sexual offending behaviors) – \$427 per night
 - Secure Residential Treatment with mental health services and Pathways Programming – \$469 per night

This director is recommending that Goodhue County not renew the Houston County detention bed contract for 2026.

Juvenile placements will still occur as needed at alternative facilities. Juvenile probation officers are very deliberate in making out-of-home placement decisions and utilize them only when necessary; particularly in situations involving high risk behaviors and public safety concerns. Based on the average 2025 per-night cost of \$453 (as estimated by the Minnesota Department of Corrections), using 121 nights would equate to an estimated \$54,813 in annual costs if placements were made on a per-use basis verses a fixed contract. While the direct cost savings are minimal, the time-intensive travel required for transports are not an efficient use of County time and resources. Houston County will still be employed on an as-needed basis if closer facilities do not have an available bed.