



**Goodhue
County**
MINNESOTA

Sentencing to Service (STS)

Committee of Whole
June 17, 2025

Program History:

Goodhue County has contracted with the State of MN for over 35 years to provide 3 crew leaders for this program. Workers for the program came from a variety of sources:

- Individuals housed in the Adult Detention Center
- Court Services adults and juveniles on probation ordered STS.
- Department of Corrections probation clients ordered STS.
- Since 2013, incarcerated persons also came from the MN Correctional Facility – RW to form a crew.
- 7 day a week coverage

STS has provided work for the following:

- Goodhue County Departments, including Public Works, Facilities Maintenance and the Sheriff's Office (note the list of projects/tasks on the handout)
- Cannon Valley Trail
- Goodhue County and Cannon Valley Fairs
- Cities, Townships and School Districts within Goodhue County
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- MN DNR
- Severe weather and natural disaster assistance
- Non-Profit Assistance

STS vs. ICWC

Sentencing to Service (STS)

- Individuals housed in the Adult Detention Center
- Court Services adults and juveniles on probation ordered STS.
- Department of Corrections probation clients ordered STS.
- Goodhue County Contract was for three STS crew leaders until July 1, 2024.
- Contract changed for two crew leaders effective July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.

Institution Community Work Crew (ICWC)

- Incarcerated persons housed at the MN Correctional Facility - RW.
- Current contract July 1, 2025-June 30, 2027 with one crew leader - 20 hours a week.
- The City of RW has also purchased 20 hours a week.

Contract History:

Goodhue County has contracted with the State of MN for over 35 years to provide 3 crew leaders for this program.

- Original contract was a 50/50 cost split.
- 2010 - State of MN reduction in funding changed the contract to a 75/25 cost split. To help offset the reduction, Goodhue County implemented a user fee of \$200/day for entities with levy authority to utilize the crew effective January 2011.
- Goodhue County sold/contracted with the City of Red Wing for 20 hours a week. This contract ended June 30, 2024.
- State of MN notified Goodhue County on May 20th, 2025 that the STS Program would be terminated due to the loss of state funding effective 06.18.2025.
- Crew Leader Rodney Brookins last day of work was June 13, 2025. Crew Leader Kelsey Holden accepted a position with the DNR and transferred in May 2025.

2024 STS Days Ordered

Court Services Clients 2024 STS

Adult: 329 days ordered 81.5 completed
49 male
16 female

Juvenile: 76 days ordered 43.75 completed
34 male
13 female

MN Dept. of Corrections Clients 2024 STS

Adult:

this information will be updated as soon as it is received.

*court orders typically allow up to 2 years for STS days to be completed.

*over the past month the crew members range from 1-4 individuals from the Adult Detention Center & probation clients.

*Juveniles are waiting to be scheduled and have not been on a crew since April 19, 2025.

Impact

Impact of Discontinuation of Sentence to Service (STS) Program

- No structured, supervised worksite for juvenile and adult accountability
- Limited community service sites for adults and zero community service work sites for youth due to liability concerns
- Longer incarceration for those eligible.

Restorative justice principle: **“Repairing harm through meaningful contribution to the community”**

- STS provides safe, skill-building, and reparative opportunities aligned with restorative practices

Lasting Consequences

Adult Offenders:

- Default consequences: serve jail time
- Removes opportunity for community accountability and skill-building
- Disproportionately impacts low-income individuals

Juvenile Offenders:

- No meaningful accountability options
- No community service sites willing to accept youth
- Alternatives: financial penalties, which are rarely developmentally appropriate or effective and often inequitable or potential out of home placement
- When accountability is not meaningful or accessible, criminal behavior may persist or escalate
- Elevated risk of out-of-home placement for youth — including detention, residential treatment, or correctional facilities
- Out-of-home placement is significantly more costly than local, restorative alternatives

Lasting Consequences

Restorative Practices Undermined:

- No space for youth or adults to **“make things right”** through work or service
- Unable to repair harm in a way that fosters responsibility, connection, and personal growth
- Moves away from rehabilitation and reparation — toward punitive-only responses
- Lost opportunity for early intervention, community connection, and long-term behavior change
- Loss of structure, mentorship, and restorative engagement

STS provides a structured, supported pathway to restoration

Temporary Plan for Summer/Fall 2025

ICWC Crew – 20 hours a week

- Continue to perform all lawn and landscape maintenance and assist with winter events for:
 - Law Enforcement Center/Adult Detention Center, Justice Center, Government Center and Health & Human Services
- Address current, ongoing and future requests on the project list.
- Assist with Byllesby duties.
- Seasonal Goodhue County Sheriff Office's Work.

Goodhue County Public Works *this is all unplanned work that is taking away from scheduled maintenance activities for the summer of 2025.

- Mowing/yard work @ Pioneer Road, Kenyon Shop, Cannon Falls Shop, Zumbrota Shop, Byllesby Park, Cascade Kayak & Canoe Launch, Recycling Center, Bench Street & Vasa Salt Shed.
- Weekend Trash at Byllesby

*Summer work will be performed by a combination of summer student staff and Hwy Maint. Workers. Overtime will be incurred on weekends.

*Fall work will be performed by Hwy Maint. Workers. Overtime will be incurred on weekends.

Options Moving Forward

1

Goodhue County creates STS Program to fall under the Court Services.

2

Increase Public Works FTE's to complete the necessary work.

3

Outsource the work that needs to be completed.

Option 1: Court Services Staffing Structure

1.0 FTE position will be split between two critical roles:

- 50% STS Coordinator: Manages referrals, tracks compliance, and coordinates placements with adult and juvenile participants. Serves as the primary liaison between the courts, probation, and partner agencies.
- 50% Case Aide: Supports over 400 administrative supervision cases by handling scheduling, data entry, and client communication and compliance.

Two - 1.0 FTE positions for Crew Leaders

To ensure accessibility, two full-time STS Crew Leaders will supervise work crews seven days a week, including weekends—providing flexible options for working adults and youth who attend school.

This structure promotes restorative accountability while accommodating real-life schedules.

* this option provides crew members in addition to the 3 FTE's to perform the work.

Option 1: Court Services Model

Goodhue County STS Program

Annual Program Expenses

	\$ 155,428.26	previously budgeted dollars
2.0 FTE Crew Leaders	\$ (206,650.00)	Estimated salary and benefits. Waiting final work from DDA
1.0 FTE STS Coordinator/Case Aide	\$ (94,482.00)	Estimated salary and benefits. Waiting final work from DDA
Cell Phones	\$ (1,500.00)	annual budget amount
Fuel/Maintenance	\$ (5,000.00)	annual budget amount
Liability/Work Comp/Property Ins.	\$ -	minimal budget impact per Finance Director

\$ (152,203.74)

Upfront Program Costs

Computers/Technology	\$ (6,000.00)	estimate is for all three staff persons
Van #1	\$ (47,000.00)	state contract pricing/could also purchase used from State
Van #2	\$ (47,000.00)	state contract pricing/could also purchase used from State
Van/Trailers/Larger Equipment		County makes fair market offer per item
Smaller/Equipment/Tools	\$ -	all current STS inventory will become property of Goodhue County

\$ 77,714.13 remainder of budgeted contract in operating budget 2025

Option 2: Increase Public Works FTE's

Option 2: Increase Public Works FTE's

Annual Program Expenses

	\$ 155,428.26	previously budgeted dollars
3.0 FTE Public Works Staff	\$ (270,906.00)	Salary & Benefits
Fuel/Maintenance	\$ (5,000.00)	annual budget amount
Liability/Work Comp/Property Ins.	\$ -	minimal budget impact per Finance Director
	\$ (120,477.74)	

Upfront Program Costs

Computers/Technology	\$ (2,000.00)	
1 Ton Pick Up Truck	\$ (80,000.00)	pricing ranges with or without dump box
Trailers/Larger Equipment	\$	County makes fair market offer per item
Smaller/Equipment/Tools	\$	County makes fair market offer per item

\$ 77,714.13	remainder of budgeted contract - 2025
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Option 3: Outsource Work

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Annual Contracted Expenses

	\$ 155,428.26	previously budgeted dollars
Recurring Functions May-Sept	\$ (215,388.00)	estimated cost
Recurring Functions - Winter	\$ (12,000.00)	
Recurring Functions - Seasonal	\$ (80,930.00)	
Building Maint. Repair/Brushing Chipping	\$ (94,000.00)	
contractor/construction rates	\$ 90.00	approximately \$90/hr

\$ (246,799.74)

\$ 77,714.13 remainder of budgeted contract - 2025

Direction Moving Forward