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Jailer says his facility is well under budget in 2025-26

BY TONYA S. GRACE
THE EAGLE POST

In a perfect world, the goal for a jail is to be profitable or at least break even so that no tax dollars are spent on it, said Christian County Jailer Adam Smith.

"That's kind of what everybody tries to get to, and we're getting closer than we have been in a long time, doing that," Smith told fiscal court last week, noting that while his budget is growing, the taxpayer responsibility part of that budget is less.

"Taxpayer dollar-wise, it's going

to be less this coming year," the jailer said.

Smith said he has requested a \$10 million budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, and he noted that the county is only going to have to put somewhere between \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million in the budget.

During a presentation at last week's Christian Fiscal Court meeting, the jailer told magistrates that his facility is well under budget in terms of what the county has currently budgeted to put into the jail.

In an approximately \$9.7 million budget in the 2025-2026 fiscal year,

Smith said the county has put only \$1.1 million into the jail of the \$2.8 million that officials budgeted for the county to put into the jail in the current fiscal year ending June 30.

"I don't anticipate them having to put much anything else into us," he said.

Smith also noted that it wouldn't have been that much. But the recent government shutdown delayed several of the payments coming in for the inmates that the local facility houses for the federal government, the jailer said.

"We had to get some of the money

from fiscal court that was budgeted for us," Smith noted of those funds.

The jailer said his facility has enough revenue coming in so that it is not going to spend all of the money that was budgeted for the county to put into the local jail.

The jail now has an agreement to house all the inmates for Graves County, which Smith said lost its jail in a tornado a few years ago, and also houses inmates for Trigg County, in addition to contracts the local facility has to house inmates for the U.S.

SEE JAILER/PAGE A4



Cassandra Proffitt/PMG

The current western Kentucky class marched into the groundbreaking ceremony

Local, state officials break ground at new police academy

BY CASSANDRA PROFFITT
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

MADISONVILLE - The groundbreaking for the new Western Kentucky law enforcement training facility was held Wednesday afternoon in Madisonville. Members of the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT), a class of academy students and dozens of officials and representatives were present for the event. Names were also given to the two future buildings on campus to honor members of Kentucky law enforcement.

A project years in the making, the new police academy offers a variety of solutions for law enforcement agencies across the state. Prior to the first class of officers to graduate from the Madisonville training center, every hopeful had to attend classes in Richmond on the campus of Eastern Kentucky University. That presented challenges for the trainees who had to travel from the far western part of the state, as well as agencies that had to wait until spots were open.

"Some of the challenges that law enforcement was facing were six- to seven-month wait times just to get into a class," said Madisonville Mayor Kevin Cotton. "It was about a year and a half from the time that you would hire somebody to the time that you could get them on the road to serve in the community."

Now, instead of 30 to 40 trainees at a time, the DOCJT can double that number at any given time, as well as stagger training sessions. It also saves money for travel and housing, and places officers on the road more quickly.

The funding for the academy expansion was approved during the 2024 General Assembly. The biennial budget included \$50 million for the construction of the facility. At the time, there was a backlog of more than 700 cadets waiting to begin their coursework.

In the recently passed 2026-28 state budget, \$13.1 million more has been allocated to the facility to build a driving track at the academy. Funds were also provided to raise the annual law enforcement training stipend to \$4,746 for full-time officers.

The DOCJT officially opened the western Kentucky

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Local run raises more than \$16,000 to fight child abuse

BY JENNY MYERS
THE EAGLE POST

A countywide run organized by local law enforcement and community partners raised more than \$16,000 Wednesday to support child abuse prevention and sexual assault awareness efforts.

The Thin Blue Run, held during April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Assault Awareness Month, brought together officers for a long distance relay across Christian County. Hopkinsville Police Chief Jason Newby said the idea began as a challenge among officers to complete a lengthy run, but quickly evolved into a community-wide effort tied to a cause.

"What started as just wanting to run the length of the county turned into something much bigger," Newby said. "If we were going to go that far, we wanted it to mean something."

This year's event, which faced weather concerns and required rescheduling, still drew strong participation



Photo by Jenny Myers/KNE

Officers in the Thin Blue Run gather at the finish after completing the countywide route in support of child abuse prevention and sexual assault awareness.

and community support. The run concluded with a ceremony at Valor Hall in Oak Grove, where organizers announced a total of \$16,745 raised.

Proceeds will be split

between the Pennyroyal Center Children's Advocacy Center and Sanctuary, Inc., two local organizations that provide services to victims of abuse and violence.

Representatives from

both groups thanked participants and emphasized the importance of the partnership with local law enforcement.

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Men2be awarded \$400K to expand youth prevention program in Christian County

BY JENNY MYERS
THE EAGLE POST

Men2Be has been awarded \$400,000 in state funding to expand its youth prevention programming in Christian County, aiming to provide more structured after-school support, mentorship and workforce training for boys and young men.

The funding, distributed through the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, will be provided over two years and

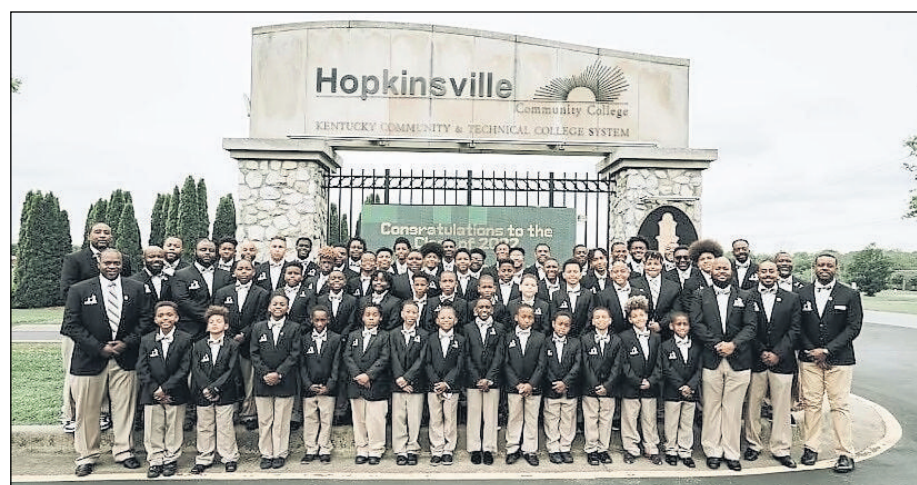


Photo by Jenny Myers/KNE

Men2Be was recently awarded a \$400,000 state grant to expand its youth prevention and mentorship programming across Christian County.

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SPORTS

Falcons explode for six in third to topple rival Fort Knox. **Page A6**

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