

With the voters' approval in May of operating funds to keep the jail open, and the beginning of a new fiscal year, the Sheriff's Office announced the opening of positions in the jail for corrections deputies and corrections technicians to begin to restaff the jail after years of budget cuts and staff losses had put the jail on the precipice of closure.

"We have begun the long journey to bring back our jail operations to some semblance of health," said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. The jail is expected to add seven full-time positions as a means of restaffing the jail. The staffing of the jail had fallen well below the minimum number needed to operate efficiently and effectively, and the influx of staff and additional funding for jail services will mean that the 25 local beds that can be filled today will eventually return to 100 local beds.

"This will be a huge shot in the arm for the criminal justice system in our county," the sheriff said, "and it will enable us not only to keep the jail open, but to house more offenders whose crimes demand accountability beyond the catch and release reality we had come to embrace over the past few years."