



ALPENA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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To: Alpena County Board of Commissioners

From: Erik Smith, Sheriff

Ref: Jail Whisper Rooms

Now that the Alpena County Jail is housing Montmorency County, Alcona County, and Alpena County inmates all in one facility, it has created inmate movement for services, court appearances, and attorney meetings additionally difficult. One remedy for this is to put "Whisper Rooms" inside the holding day rooms. These rooms are best described as old fashion telephone booths. The inmates could access the room as needed without being escorted to a separate area of the facility. Inside the booth would be an electronic device that the inmate could connect for court appearances, meeting attorneys, or receiving several other services.

The cost of these rooms are approx. \$8,000 each. We feel that adding two Whisper Rooms to the facility would be extremely helpful for day to day operations. One would be added to each of our largest day rooms. One room holds up to 24 inmates and one holds up to 18 inmates. This makes up approx. 1/2 of the facilities maximum capacity.

While working with MIDC staff, we believe that \$8000 or half of the total cost would be covered through a MIDC grant. The other \$8000 could be covered by the inmate commissary fund. Those funds are collected through the sale of jail commissary and can only be spent of items that benefit inmates. The current fund is at roughly \$30,000, and we collect \$1500 to \$3000 a month, depending on sales.

We are seeking authorization to purchase two whisper rooms, contingent on MIDC funding \$8000 of the purchase.

Respectfully,

Erik Smith, Sheriff