

Here are three social media posts designed to humanize the current funding crisis in Maine's county jails, specifically tailored for a public awareness campaign.

Post 1: The Staff Perspective (Focus on Workforce)

Platform: Facebook/LinkedIn

Visual Idea: A photo of a corrections officer's worn boots or a high-vis vest resting on a chair in a breakroom.

Caption:

"I'm not just a corrections officer. On any given shift, I'm a crisis counselor, a first responder, and a de-escalation expert. But while my responsibilities have grown, the support from the state hasn't.

For five years, Maine's jail funding has been frozen at **\$20.4 million**. Meanwhile, our costs for labor and safety have skyrocketed. We're working with skeleton crews and mandatory overtime just to keep the doors open. We show up every day to keep our communities safe—it's time for the State to show up for us.

#MaineCorrectionalCrisis #SupportOurSheriffs #PublicSafetyFirst"

Post 2: The Mental Health Crisis (Focus on Acuity)

Platform: Instagram

Visual Idea: A simple graphic showing a clock ticking next to a set of jail keys, with the text: *"Waiting for care shouldn't happen behind bars."*

Caption:

Our county jails have become Maine's default mental health and substance use treatment centers. 🏠❤️

Because state facilities are full, people in crisis stay in our cells longer, requiring intensive medical care we aren't fully funded to provide. In **Penobscot County** alone, medical costs reached **\$2.5 million** last year. We are doing the work of a hospital on a frozen budget from 2021.

When the state share stays flat, the burden falls on local property taxpayers. We need a funding model that reflects the reality of 2026, not 2021.

#MentalHealthMatters #MaineHealthCare #FixTheFunding

Post 3: The Taxpayer Impact (Focus on the Property Tax Cap)

Platform: X (Twitter)

Visual Idea: A split-screen graphic: One side shows "State Funding: Frozen Since 2021," the other shows "Your Property Taxes: Rising."

Caption:

The math doesn't add up for Maine homeowners. 📄

The State dictates 80% of jail operations but only pays about **15% of the bill**. With a frozen **\$20.4M allocation**, counties are forced to hike property taxes to fill the gap. In some areas, residents are facing **14% to 16% increases** just to keep jails running.

It's time to unfreeze the **County Jail Operations Fund**. Let's protect our seniors and homeowners from bearing the cost of state-mandated services.

#MaineTaxpayers #PropertyTaxRelief #MEpolitics

Next Step: Would you like me to create a **one-page fact sheet** with these statistics that you can distribute to local municipal leaders?