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DOC gets \$260,879 federal grant

NEWPORT — A Department of Justice grant of \$260,879 received by Sullivan County will provide for staffing improvements at the Sullivan County Department of Corrections.

Ross Cunningham, superintendent of the Department of Corrections, shared that news with the Sullivan County Commissioners at their meeting Sept. 24 in Newport.

The grant was funded under the Recovery Act Rural Law Enforcement Assistance: Combating Rural Crime.

The grant will provide funds for one year for three new positions and two other positions that will be retained.

One new position will cover a full-time case manager to help link inmates to community resources. The idea will be to develop the relationships with community providers prior to

discharge and then have a seamless transition upon release.

The Sullivan County Department of Corrections will move one of the current first or second-shift officers to the third shift. This will enable a new officer to be hired with a primary focus of job development.

The third position will provide coverage on the third shift. The current Transitional Housing Unit does not have any supervision on the third shift. It was opened in 2003 and is located in the county nursing home.

It is approximately two-tenths of a mile from the House of Corrections and is unmanned from 11 p.m. until 7 a.m. "The Department of Corrections finds this situation unacceptable and plans on rectifying it," Cunningham said.