

# DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## STATE OF ALASKA

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **KOTZEBUE JAIL REOPENS FOR STATE PRISONERS**

(Juneau) – The Kotzebue Jail is again accepting state prisoners as a contract facility of the state Department of Corrections after it reached an agreement with the state over reimbursement costs.

The Kotzebue Jail stopped accepting state inmates on July 1, 2003 when the city declined to sign a \$589,000 contract for Fiscal Year 2004. The city originally demanded \$920,000.

“There have been frequent back-and-forth discussions between our department and the City of Kotzebue. We worked cooperatively and finalized an agreement acceptable to both sides,” said Corrections Commissioner Marc Antrim.

The agreement announced Thursday provides \$200,000 for jail operations in Kotzebue through the end of the fiscal year. Kotzebue will receive \$800,000 for FY 2006 with a 10 percent increase to \$880,000 in FY 2007.

“If approved by the legislature, contract facilities will receive a 10 percent increase for FY 06, however Kotzebue receives a slightly higher amount due to its consistently higher volume of prisoners,” Antrim explained. The Kotzebue Jail is rated for 12-14 beds.

The Department of Corrections contracts with 15 municipal jails in rural communities. The state reimburses community jails for the cost of housing prisoners who either serve sentences shorter than one year in duration or those awaiting transport to state correctional facilities.

During the contract negotiations, the Kotzebue Jail required Alaska State Troopers to transport inmates to Anvil Mountain Correctional Center in Nome. As a result, the Department of Public Safety opened a small, temporary facility in Kotzebue to hold prisoners awaiting transport. That facility, in the courthouse, will remain available for use.