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The McLean County JDC: An Evaluative Tool for Determining the Feasibility of Outsourcing Juvenile Detention

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THE McLEAN COUNTY JDC: AN EVALUATIVE TOOL FOR DETERMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF OUTSOURCING JUVENILE DETENTION

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The purpose of this research was to compose a systematic procedure, using cost-effectiveness analysis, to determine the feasibility of expanding government services by constructing on-site juvenile detention facilities, as opposed to outsourcing juvenile detention to other nearby counties. This research discussed and evaluated County of McLean, Illinois officials' recent decision to build a juvenile detention center (JDC). By examining the local economic impact (i.e. property values, sales taxes and property taxes) of the JDC, this research focused on the costs associated with the McLean County Government, employees of the JDC, McLean County citizens, and juveniles. Results indicated that the decision to build a JDC was not cost-effective, as the long-run costs associated with the outsourcing of juvenile detention were less than those associated with the construction of the JDC. Possible implications concerning the future use of this analysis for other counties to determine detention feasibility are discussed.