



# New Mexico Counties 2024 Legislative Priorities

## HB2 Appropriations

### Firefighter/EMS Recruitment & Retention

Appropriate a reoccurring fund to NMDHS to be administered by the State Fire Marshal's Office for fire departments to staff, recruit, and retain career and volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. Call volumes have increased by 50% and response systems are over-burdened. The average volunteer age is 65 years.

### Emergency Medical Services

Create a line item in the DOH EMS Services Bureau budget with \$10 million to assist local government EMS services. Services have been significantly underfunded for years and are vital to the health and welfare of New Mexicans.

### Detention Reimbursement Fund

Fully fund the County Detention Facility Reimbursement Act Fund to reimburse counties for the actual cost of housing inmates. The average 5-year cost to house NMCD inmates is \$7.5 million. Current fund at \$5 million.

### Detention Recruitment & Retention

Appropriate \$10 million to the newly formed Corrections Workforce Capacity Building Fund administered by DFA. Adequate detention staff are essential to a safe well-operated facility which is directly correlated to community safety.

### RISE Funding

Make permanent and increase HSD funding for county participation in the RISE (Reach, Intervene, Support, and Engage) Program.

### Courthouse Funding

Appropriate \$20 million to AOC for county courthouse matching fund. Counties maintain that courthouses are a state responsibility and that the rising costs of construction, security, and IT necessitate a shared revenue stream.

### State Health Benefits Plan

Create a State Health Benefits Fund solvency plan to address the estimated \$149 million deficit. Ensure fund solvency and guarantee proper notice to enable local public bodies to budget for increased costs moving forward.

## Elected Official Salary Increase

Increase the salary cap for newly elected county officials by 15% with a provision for future adjustments to track the Consumer Price Index. Historically adjusted approximately every four years. Increase must be in place when newly elected officials take office in 2024. CPI provision eliminates the need for repeated legislative action.



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