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ICE relocating administrative offices to Etowah County

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By Karla Redditte - bio | email

GADSDEN, AL (WAFF) - More than 300 immigration detainees being held in northeast Alabama will soon have some company. The department of immigration and customs enforcement or ICE is moving its administrative offices to Etowah County.



"This will be a long term lease, and this will go into the general fund, and of course we'll be working with the sheriff's department in splitting the funds," said Etowah County Commissioner Tim Choate.

This is a big change from just six months ago when ICE was considering cutting back operations in Gadsden.

"We were able to reassign our responsibilities to the New Orleans district, and we went to a famine--at that point--to a feast, so to speak," said Chief Jailer Scott Hassell.

In addition to the administrative offices, ICE plans to use the Etowah County facility for experimental programs such as dog training and aquaculture.

It's good for ICE and it saves the taxpayers money. That's the bottom line," said Hassell.

The ICE agreement is expected to bring in \$60,000 more in rent a year for Etowah County.

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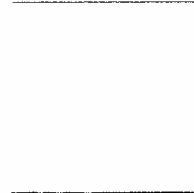
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