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Dallas DA says lack of funding is behind difficulty enforcing judgments

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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DALLAS — Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins says the failure of county commissioners to adequately fund his office is behind the difficulty in enforcing court judgments against bail bondsmen and attorneys who write bonds.

Craig Watkins told The Dallas Morning News by email that he hired an attorney with extensive bail bond experience to help address the problem, but lack of funding means "he's also responsible for addressing other county issues that are just as important."

Some commissioners disputed the claim, and one said Watkins has never raised the issue with the Commissioners Court.

The newspaper has reported that \$35 million in court judgments arising from bond cases is owed to the county, much of it decades old and deemed uncollectible. County officials have said only about \$400,000 can be collected.

Information from: The Dallas Morning News,
<http://www.dallasnews.com>

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