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# Baldwin County suing opioid manufacturers

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BALDWIN COUNTY, AL (WALA) - The Baldwin County Commission passed a resolution Tuesday to enter into litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors.

Baldwin County is one of many government agencies around the country to target the manufacturers of these drugs. Leaders have retained a well-known, Pensacola-based law firm to file the suit in federal court.

County officials said the problem is becoming an epidemic and is costing the taxpayers millions of dollars a year. That's because your money goes towards medical costs for prisoners who are addicted and have to be hospitalized.

Sheriff Huey Mack said, "It's not unusual for us to transport one to an emergency room, incur a five thousand dollar bill relatively quickly depending on the length of stay so that's where the money issue comes in and then if they truly are addicted to the drug, now we're into a treatment or maintenance program."

Along with prescription opioids, Baldwin County has also seen a 50% increase in heroin usage over the last year.

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