



TRINITY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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BRUCE HANEY, Sheriff/Coroner
KEN LANGSTON, Undersheriff

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2013

**TRINITY COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT**

August 19, 2013

Judge Elizabeth Johnson, Presiding Judge
Trinity County Superior Court
P.O. Box 1258
11 Court Street
Weaverville, Ca. 96093

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every*

Dear Judge Johnson,

The following is a response to the Trinity County Grand Jury Report, JUR-2012-2013-003
Trinity County Detention Facility: An arrested State of Decay.

Findings and Recommendations

Finding 1

The County Jail is funded primarily by the County General Fund in a time of diminishing financial resources and many competing needs. This has limited the ability of the County to make the necessary improvements to the facility. Simply not having the funds does not release the county of its obligation to improve the status quo.

Recommendation 1:

In the litigious state we are in, a well thought plan to address the needs of the jail will go along way to improve the untenable situation that the jail presents. The Board of Supervisors with the Sheriff should convene an advisory committee to explore funding options and develop a five-year plan for the implementation of improvements to address the needs of the jail facility. This plan could do a great deal to not only improve the condition of the jail but also reduce the potential liability of the county. Putting forth the effort to procure alternative sources of funding combined with incremental improvements will not only help reduce liability of the county it will also improve the jail.

Create a plan to address Finding 1 and provide an update of progress to each future Grand Jury in December of each year.

RESPONSE 1:

The current Trinity County Detention Facility has long surpassed its life expectancy. Since the beginning of this fiscal year we have estimated \$50,000 to \$80,000 in needed repairs to the jail with the expectation of additional repair costs.

For the past two years the administration of the Trinity County Sheriff's Office has followed various funding sources and last year submitted an application for AB 900 Phase II funding for a new jail. Preference for AB 900 funding was given to counties that send the largest number of inmates to the California Department of Corrections (state prison). Trinity County was ranked 57th out of 58 counties on the preference list and did not receive the needed funding.

This year we have attended all Board of State and Community Corrections meetings including those related to the crafting of the Request For Proposals (RFP) for those counties seeking funding from SB 1022 for the construction of new county jails.

The Trinity County Chief Administrative Officer has formed an application/construction committee to insure that the application is properly completed and to identify a parcel of land that meets the requirements set forth in the SB 1022 RFP.

We will be submitting our application to the Board of State and Community Corrections by the October 24, 2013 deadline.

Finding 2

The new video system has been purchased but is not installed.

Recommendation2:

Putting the video system into operation should be a top priority. The safety and well being of the employees and inmates is dependent on it.

RESPONSE 2:

The video system in jail has been very frustrating. With no funds budgeted for the purchase and installation of a new system we have found funds from various sources to purchase the equipment. We had a volunteer who told us he would install the new cameras free of charge. What we have experienced is delay after delay leaving us with an incomplete system.

We have set aside \$20,000 from asset forfeiture funds to complete the project ASAP.

Finding3

There is not an adequate battery back-up for the computer-aided dispatch system. The emergency dispatch system needs to have at least two fail safe back-up systems.

Recommendation3:

Procure an adequate back-up system for the computer-enhanced dispatch system.

RESPONSE 3:

Though there have been issues with the battery back-up system in our dispatch center we have recently upgraded from two Model 750 batteries to two Model 1500 batteries doubling the battery back-up capacity. Problems that for a short while were common place have been resolved with the addition of the Model 1500's. With any electronic/computer system redundancy is always a safe and prudent course to pursue. An additional battery will be added to help us meet this redundancy goal.

Finding4

The oxygen concentrator is too noisy.

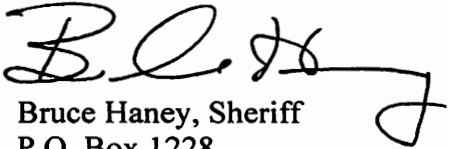
Recommendation4:

Service or replace it.

RESPONSE 4:

The oxygen concentrator has been replaced.

Sincerely,



Bruce Haney, Sheriff
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Cc: Wendy Tyler, Trinity County Administrative Officer