



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRANDON BARNES
SHERIFF – CORONER

ENDORSED FILED

June 14, 2022

SEP 22 2022

Superior Court of California, County of Sutter

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

Attn: The Honorable Susan Green - Presiding Judge

1175 Civic Center Blvd.

Yuba City, CA. 95993

Please accept this response on behalf of the Sutter County Sheriff's Office regarding the findings of the Grand Jury for FY 21/22. It has been my honor to get to know the Grand Jury members and to provide an overview of the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I want to express my appreciation of the Grand Jury and the role they play in helping to bring deficiencies to our attention. I have reviewed the proposed report and offer the following responses to both the "Findings" and the "Recommendations" suggested by the Grand Jury.

SUTTER COUNTY JAIL

FINDINGS:

F3 Drugs are still getting into the jail.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees, and we have made substantial improvements in recent years to help reduce the amount of contraband coming into the jail. To continue to work towards improvements, the Sheriff's Office has taken additional steps to address the issue of contraband.

First, the Sheriff's Office has budgeted for a narcotics detection K9 for FY 22/23 and we anticipate this being approved by the Board of Supervisors. The budgeted amount of this purchase is approx. \$12,000.00.

Second, is adding additional metal screening to the open-air roof of the exercise yard adjacent to the men's dormitory. The Sheriff's Office has found the existing screen is large enough for smaller items (i.e. narcotics in pill form) to fall through to the floor. The additional screen will overlay and greatly reduce the size of the openings covering the exercise yard. This project will be completed the week of June 11-15, 2022, at a cost of approx. \$16,650.00.



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This is a combined contribution of \$28,650.00 to help reduce contraband from coming into the jail facility.

F4 The Sutter County Jail is understaffed.

F4 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with this finding but also notes it is based on a maximum capacity of 394 occupied beds in the jail facility. The current Average Daily Population (ADP) is approx. 157 incarcerated persons.

It is important to note the Organizational Study shows Sutter County has the lowest percentage of incarcerated persons population from 2018 to 2020 (Page 82). The jail continues to be below our pre pandemic population numbers, and the medium security facility remains closed. Should the population increase, there will be a need to re-evaluate the staffing numbers. The Sheriff's Office will be working with the County Administrator's Office to include positions in future budget cycles as a measured approach to improving staffing.

Average Daily Population

Agency	2018	2019	2020
Butte County	91%	92%	82%
Kings County	84%	92%	86%
Madera County	85%	89%	74%
Nevada County	84%	76%	69%
Sutter County	65%	62%	48%
Yuba County	83%	86%	62%
Peer Average	85%	87%	75%

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 Sutter County should invest in a drug sniffing dog for use in the jail (in response to finding F3).

R1 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees and has requested this asset in the budget for FY 22/23, which is pending approval by the Board of Supervisors. The Sheriff's Office is hopeful the budget will be approved, and the Sheriff's Office will then begin the process of identifying the appropriately trained K9 for this assignment.

R2 Sutter County should follow the recommendations presented in the Sutter County Sheriff's Office Organizational Assessment and Staffing Study regarding the hiring of additional jail staff (In response to finding F4).



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R2 Response: The Sutter County Sheriff's Office agrees it should follow the recommendations outlined in the Organizational Assessment. However, we believe in a measured approach to filling these positions and we are currently working with the County Administrator's Office on plans for implementation.

As noted in Recommendation #9 of the Organizational Study, it says to add "2.0 FTE correctional officers per shift when the closed control room and related housing unit reopens to ensure the facility has proper resources given staff absences" (Page 34). Post pandemic, the jail population has remained relatively low and the jail's medium facility is still not being used to house incarcerated persons. The Sheriff's Office believes we can work towards additional staffing in future budgets as the jail population gradually increases.

Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has approved the addition of an administrative sergeant position to help with jail oversight and this is also a recommendation outlined in the Organizational Study.

The Sheriff's Office continues to be dedicated to meeting, or exceeding, industry standards for the care and custody of those we supervise. We appreciate the recommendations of the Grand Jury and further thank you for accepting these responses on behalf of the Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "B. Barnes", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes
Sheriff-Coroner

RECEIVED

JUN 31 2022

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER