



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRANDON BARNES
SHERIFF – CORONER

June 30, 2020

Superior Court of California, County of Sutter

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 19/20. 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:

F1 There is a staffing issue within the Sutter County Sheriff's Jail Facility.

F1 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. The jail opened approx. 11,000 square feet of additional space that must meet with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) standards, which has placed more responsibility on existing staff.

F2 The Sutter County Grand Jury found that there are drugs and other contraband present within the jail.

F2 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding.

F3 Lack of overhead netting in the medium security exercise yards.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees there is no netting over the exercise yards at the medium security facility.

F4 The current search method for contraband has proven to be inadequate.

F4 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding and have already taken steps to improve in this area.



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F5 The laundry room has no surveillance cameras present.

F5 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees and has already taken steps to improve in this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should expand jail employment to provide more manpower within the jail by December 1, 2021.

R1 Response: The Sheriff's Office sought information for a comprehensive staffing analysis for the entire office. Regretfully, the cost was prohibitive so the Sheriff is exploring other options that may be more affordable. With the opening of the AB900 jail expansion project, there has been approx. 11,000 additional square feet of space that needs to be maintained. This includes inmate housing, a new jail medical, and kitchen renovations. The Sheriff's Office recognized additional resources would be needed but further analysis is needed to determine appropriate staffing levels. The Sheriff's Office did add one position to the jail medical area during FY19/20 and added a secretary to the jail to assist with organization and tracking. The Sheriff's Office is committed to finding reasonable solutions for improving staffing and is working with the County Administrator for possible solutions.

R2 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should invest in a full body scanner placed within the Sutter County Main jail by January 1, 2022.

R2 Response: The Sutter County Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring best practices for safety and security of the jail. To that end, we previously identified the benefits of a full body scanner and researched various options. The Sheriff requested a body scanner as part of the FY 20/21 budget package, which has been approved. The purchase of the scanner is being paid out of special revenue funding, so there will be no general fund impact for the purchase. It is the hope of the Sheriff's Office to purchase the scanner as soon as September of 2020.

R3 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should purchase and install overhead netting over the open aired spaces/areas near the Medium Security facility and/or create a fenced off area preventing civilians from having access to this area by December 2021.

R3 Response: The Sheriff's Office appreciates the feedback from the Grand Jury, and this is a valid recommendation. The Sheriff has directed the Jail Commander to research possible options and submit recommendations. If this project is fiscally feasible, it will be included in the budget proposal for FY20/21, in hopes it would be completed by December of 2021.



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R4 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should place surveillance cameras in the laundry room by January 1, 2021.

R4 Response: The Sheriff's Office previously recognized this as a deficiency in the laundry facility. Adding cameras to the laundry room was budgeted and this project has been completed. The laundry room and medium security courtyard cameras went active on June 2, 2020. The cameras in the laundry room and the laundry courtyard all possess zoom capabilities. The inside views cover the entire main laundry room, where linens are washed and folded.

The Sheriff's Office is grateful for the recommendations of the Grand Jury. We feel we have an exemplary staff, but regrettably have financial limitations like most agencies our size. We will work to improve in the areas noted and continue to build upon our successes. If the Grand Jury would like to discuss any of these issues in greater detail, please feel free to contact the Office of the Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Barnes", is written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes

Sheriff-Coroner

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JUL 09 2020

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER