



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BRANDON BARNES
SHERIFF – CORONER

July 6, 2023

Superior Court of California, County of Sutter
Attn: The Honorable Susan Green - Presiding Judge
1175 Civic Center Blvd.
Yuba City, CA. 95993

ENDORSED FILED

SEP 28 2023

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

Please accept this response on behalf of the Sutter County Sheriff's Office regarding the findings of the Grand Jury for FY 22/23. 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" as suggested by the Grand Jury. While the requested responses were not specific to the Sheriff's Office, I feel it is my responsibility to be transparent and offer solutions and support to other county departments, as well as the Board of Supervisors.

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FINDINGS:

F1: The Sheriff Department has consistently acted on recommendations and implemented those recommendations to reduce narcotics and contraband from entering the jail. These actions have greatly reduced the infiltration of narcotics and contraband into the jail, providing a safer environment for jail staff and inmates.

F1 Response: The Sheriff's Office would like to express our appreciation of the Grand Jury for these comments. We pride ourselves on being innovative and fiscally responsible in accomplishing our goals. Prior Grand Jury reports have offered good suggestions for improvements, and we are glad we were able to implement many of their recommendations into our facility.

F:2 While staffing remains a challenge, significant progress has been made in staffing at Sutter County Sheriff Office. The staff efficiency and morale continue to improve as staffing levels increase.

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F2 Response: The Sheriff's Office appreciates the Grand Jury's acknowledgement of our efforts to recruit and hire qualified personnel to provide public safety services. The Board of Supervisors have shown their support through salary increases and this has allowed the Sheriff's Office to stay competitive in the job market. The Sheriff's Office is committed to creating an environment where candidates will feel valued and want to be part of a great organization. We will continue our recruitment efforts throughout this next fiscal year.

F3: The current evaporative cooling system in the older section of the jail is not adequate, creating unsafe working conditions for the jail staff and unsafe living conditions for the inmates.

F3 Response: The Sheriff's Office agrees the evaporating cooling system is in need of replacement and this could potentially create "Unsafe" working conditions. However, it is my belief staff goes to great lengths to ensure a safe environment for both staff and incarcerated persons. Some of these procedures included bringing in additional fans, handing out ice packs and mopping condensation from the floors. As noted in the Grand Jury's report, there have been no formal complaints lodged in the jail about excessive heat or heat related emergencies. Again, this credit belongs to our exceptional staff, but we acknowledge improvements must be made with the cooling system.

F4: Sutter County has secured grant funds through the grant writing functions of the Development Officer position (libraries and museums) that well exceed the cost of this position.

F4 Response: The Sheriff's Office supports this recommendation and would appreciate additional assistance in locating and securing grant funding opportunities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1: General Services should obtain a current cost estimate for the replacement of the air conditioning system in the old section of the Sutter County Jail by December 1, 2023. (F3).

R1 Response: The Sheriff's Office supports this recommendation and will cooperate with facility access, or any additional information needed to obtain a cost estimate for this facility improvement project.

R2: Board of Supervisors should research, identify, and begin funding the capital improvement fund for the new cooling system for Sutter County Jail by June 30, 2024. (F3).

R2 Response: The Sheriff's Office supports this recommendation and will work in cooperation with the Board of Supervisors on potential funding solutions.



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R3: Board of Supervisors should create a Public Safety Grant Writing position to research possible funding for the facility improvements via grants by June 20, 2024. (F4).

R3 Response: The Sheriff's Office supports this recommendation. The Sheriff's Office would recommend a "Public Safety" grant writing position that supports law, fire, Probation and our District Attorney's Office. The Sheriff's Office currently manages 14 different grants or legislative revenue streams (Table A, attached). Grant writing requires a tremendous amount of research to meet specific grant requirements. Additionally, if a grant is awarded there are reporting requirements associated with most grants. The Sheriff's Office is limited on staffing that can accomplish such tasks given the current number of grants we currently manage. Having a designated position to write and monitor grant revenues would be a welcomed addition to our public safety departments.

The Sheriff's Office continues to be dedicated to meeting, or exceeding, industry standards for public safety operations and corrections. 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 read "Brandon Barnes", is written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes

Sheriff-Coroner



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Table A:

Grants/Legislative Pmts	
Trail Court Security	1,188,436
CalMMET	139,593
Booking Fees	64,180
Small County Law Enforcement	500,000
SCAAP Grant	116,721
Boat Patrol Grant	261,829
SAFE Grant	20,000
CCP-AB109	1,781,315
DSH IST Evaluations	10,000
Jail EASS Services	199,920
BSCC Officer Welness & Mental Health	70,910
CDPH Toxicology Grant	30,888
OES SARC Exam Grant	10,143
DOJ BVP Bulletproof Grant	8,633
Total Grants/Legislative Pmts	4,402,568