Response to the 2025/2026 Civil Grand Jury Report

San Benito County Sheriff's Office

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS with RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-1 Staffing shortages exist within the Sheriff's Department. The Department is unable to attract and maintain adequate staffing.

R-1 The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County invest in retention incentives or other programs for existing officers within the next nine months.

RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-1 Partially disagree: Multiple inspections by the BSCC, including our most recent inspection in 2026 have found that our office maintains adequate staffing levels in our correctional facilities and are compliant with Title 15 regulations. However, it is extremely challenging to maintain these staffing levels due to ongoing recruitment and retention challenges and often must fill shifts with overtime assignments. We are also unable to staff much needed ancillary and support assignments to improve efficiency and safety in our correctional facilities, as we are only staffed and authorized for the minimum operational needs. Note this "adequate staffing" is only regarding the main jail. We are still unable to open the Curtis J Hill Rehabilitation Center with the staffing we currently have. The BSCC recommends 40 Correctional Officers.

R-1 Has been implemented: In response to the recommendation regarding incentives, the Board of Supervisors has worked with the Sheriff to create incentives that have helped slow the departure of staff and has attracted new people to apply. These include; longevity calculations that include all law enforcement experience, not just county time, paid medical benefits with no employee contribution, and the ability to work out for one-hour on-duty. The incentive package will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval at its meeting of September 1, 2026.

F-2 A new radio system has been purchased but has yet to be implemented

R-2 The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County take appropriate steps to implement the new radio system within the next three months.

RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-2 Agree: This ongoing saga of the radio system has been a huge draw on our office. It should be noted the Board of Supervisors have been supportive of, and have voted unanimously for, this new radio system on more than one occasion. The issue is that the County does not have a mechanism to get these projects done. Sheriff Taylor has asked the BOS multiple times to move the radio system, and project, to RMA/Public Works as this deals with county infrastructure. Our office just does not have bandwidth or expertise to deal with these large projects.

R-2 Has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future: We have made a lot of progress and currently have radios programmed and are in the testing phase. We have made a lot of progress and hope to be fully operational in the coming months. We will be working with the Board of Supervisors and County administration on future operational enhancements to the system.

F-3 The intake reception area of the Curtis J. Hill Rehabilitation Center is non-ADA compliant.

R-3 The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the facility be brought into ADA compliance within six months

RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-3 Disagree: The intake reception area of the Curtis J. Hill Rehabilitation Center is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) standards according to the standards that were in place during its construction. We believe what the Civil Grand Jury is referring to is the shower located in the intake reception area, which is not compliant with current ADA standards. However, this particular shower is not required to be compliant with 2026 ADA standards.

R-3 Has been implemented: Though not legally required, we are working with county administration and other county departments to remodel the showers to make them ADA Compliant.

F-4 The Sheriff's Department requires additional staffing when transferring inmates and detainees.

R-4 The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the County develop a policy so that all inmates and detainees are transported by a minimum of two officers/deputies. This recommendation must be implemented within the next nine months.

RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-4 Disagree: The statement indicates the Sheriff's Office does not have a policy on the transportation of incarcerated persons which is inaccurate. San Benito County Sheriff's Office custody policy number 535, and operations policy number 904 outline proper procedures for the transportation of incarcerated and detained persons. This and all other policies are reviewed by the Bureau of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) during their required inspections and was found complaint with Title 15.

R-4 Has not been implemented: Though staff may desire having two officers for every transport, that is not reasonable and/or common practice in law enforcement. If/when we have high-risk transports, we will use two officers for our custody bureau. That same policy does not translate to operations. It is not reasonable or feasible.

F-5 The BSCC report non-compliance (1056 - The use of Sobering Cells)- Incarcerated persons were held in sobering cells longer than 12 hours without hourly safety checks.

R-5 The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the facility incorporate the recommendations that the Sheriff submitted to the BSCC within 6 months.

RESPONSE FROM SHERIFF TAYLOR

F-5 Disagree: The Grand Jury's finding does not accurately reflect the BSCC's report. The BSCC finding was: "Incarcerated persons held in sobering cell longer than 12 hours with hourly safety checks without an evaluation by health care staff." The BSCC found that a few individuals were placed in sobering cells, but their welfare was still assessed at least once every hour. The individuals in discussion were not placed in sobering cells due to their intoxication but rather placed there out of an abundance of caution so they could be more closely monitored by correctional and medical staff due to experiencing medical or mental health issues not arising to the level of being needed to be placed in a safety cell. BSCC found that even though these individuals in discussion were not placed in a sobering cell due to intoxication, they still needed their welfare assessed at least once every 30 minutes rather than the once an hour that occurs in regular housing.

R-5 Has been implemented: Though not legally required, we have changed our procedures to cease the multi-purpose use of sobering cells, absent an emergency. We are also ensuring that those individuals experiencing medical or mental health issues will receive safety checks every 30 minutes rather than every hour.