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advantage of this funding. (On March 15, 2011, the Board of Supervisors initiated discussions on how to acquire these funds. They have until June 30, 2011 to decide.)

Recommendations

The Plumas County Probation Department is doing a very good job despite being understaffed and under funded. The County should fill the vacancies at the Department and increase funding whenever possible.

The Probation Department should continue to expand its outreach programs to help at-risk juveniles. These programs can help change risky behavior and keep juveniles out of the court system.

The County should continue to make every effort to acquire available Federal and State funding for drug and alcohol treatment programs. These programs could reduce the workload of both law enforcement and the courts.

Sheriff's Department and Jail Report

Specific Issues

It is mandatory that the Grand Jury tour prisons and jails within its jurisdiction to ascertain prisoner welfare and the condition of the facilities.

Function

The Plumas County Sheriff's Department provides public safety, emergency service, and law enforcement along with security for the courts and the citizens of Plumas County. The County Jail is run by the Sheriff and houses people being detained while awaiting trial. It includes those who have been sentenced to a jail term and those who have been sentenced to prison, but have yet to be transferred to the State penal system.

Purpose Statement

To comply with the California Penal Code.

Summary of Investigation

The annual Grand Jury tour took place on September 22, 2010. The tour was conducted by Sheriff Hagwood and the on-duty jail officers and was presented in a professional manner. The Sheriff was also interviewed by the Grand Jury at another time.

Findings

The jail housed thirty-five inmates at the time of the tour. Sixty percent of them were there on drug-related charges and thirteen percent were there for DUI's. The jail has poor-to-zero radio and/or cell phone communication in different areas due to the concrete block construction of the building. This jail is one of the very few remaining linear style jails in the State. The outside jail yard borders a public road. The jail kitchen was found to be clean along with the rest of the jail. The jail is clearly understaffed with a total of seventeen employees and as few as two officers on night duty. The Sheriff is actively seeking grants and other funding for a new jail and additional staff. The Grand Jury recognized that the jail staff is performing well under difficult circumstances. In September 2010, Sheriff Hagwood had no under sheriff or secretary and therefore routinely worked twelve to fourteen hours a day. In the spring of 2011, the Sheriff reorganized the department and added two Assistant Sheriffs, one over Operations and the other over Administration. The Sheriff eliminated one departmental position and was able to make this reorganization change at no additional departmental cost, but even with these changes, the time demands on the Sheriff are large. The new relationship between the City of Portola and the Sheriff's Department is in good standing. There is a problem due to a lack of funding, and no patrol deputies are on duty between 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Those hours are covered by "on call" deputies. The Grand Jury considers this to be above and beyond their normal call of duty.