



**WILLIAM "TEX" DOWDY**  
Sheriff- Coroner

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Modoc County Grand Jury  
P.O. Box 78  
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**To:** Honorable Wendy J. Dier Presiding Judge and Members of the Modoc County Grand Jury  
**From:** William "Tex" Dowdy, Sheriff, Modoc County Sheriff's Office  
**Date:** September 23, 2025  
**Subject:** Response to Grand Jury Findings and Recommendations – Jail Operations

The Modoc County Sheriff's Office appreciates the work of the Grand Jury in reviewing the operations of the Modoc County Jail. We recognize the importance of oversight and the role it plays in ensuring transparency, accountability, and the safe and effective operation of our correctional facility.

Below, I am providing responses to each of the findings and recommendations presented in the 2024-2025 Grand Jury's report.

## Findings & Responses

**Finding 1:** Maintenance issues reported in 2024 have been largely addressed. However, there are still areas within the jail where cameras systems are either outdated or non-functional. This creates potential risks for both staff and inmates and exposes the County to potential liability.

**Response:** I agree with the Grand Jury's findings. The Modoc County Sheriff's Office is working with Modoc County Administration, the Modoc County Information Technology Department and a Security Company to replace existing cameras and to add additional cameras in and around the jail facility. We hope to have the contract agreement before the Board of Supervisors in late October or November of this year.

**Finding 2:** Planning for a replacement facility has not advanced due to insufficient funding associated with increased cost, inability to secure additional funding due to onerous regulations and restrictions beyond the control of Modoc County.

**Response:** I agree with this finding. Planning for a replacement facility has been limited due to funding challenges that have constrained progress, largely driven by inflation. Available local funding has not been sufficient to meet these increased costs. At the same time, efforts to secure additional state and federal funding have been unsuccessful due to restrictive eligibility requirements and regulations beyond the County's control.

The County remains committed to pursuing the replacement facility. Ongoing efforts include exploring alternative funding opportunities, advocating for changes in state and federal programs to better support small and rural counties, and trying to identify an affordable project manager.

**Finding 3:** Staffing shortages, particularly among female deputies, remain an ongoing challenge due to a general lack of interested or qualified candidates for rural, remote positions.

**Response:** I agree with this finding. Recruiting and retaining qualified staff, particularly female deputies, continues to be difficult in a rural and geographically remote county such as Modoc. The pool of interested and qualified applicants remains limited.

I have made efforts to increase awareness of career opportunities, including participating in high school internship programs. While these internships have not directly resulted in new hires, they have provided valuable exposure to local students—both male and female—regarding career opportunities as correctional deputies. The program has introduced potential candidates at an earlier stage, building awareness of the profession even if immediate recruitment outcomes have been limited.

I remain committed to continuing to explore and develop strategies to improve recruitment and retention, including partnerships with educational institutions, outreach efforts, and improving working conditions for correctional staff.

## **Recommendations & Responses**

**Recommendation 1:** Continue efforts to finalize and implement the contract for cameras system updates. Explore interim safety measures to ensure staff and inmate protection until the new system is fully operational.

**Response:** The Sheriff's Office is in the process of implementing this recommendation. The Modoc County Sheriff's Office is working collaboratively with Modoc County Administration, the Modoc County Information Technology Department, and a contracted security company to replace existing cameras and install additional cameras in and around the jail facility. It is anticipated that the contract agreement will be brought before the Board of Supervisors in late October or November of this year.

In the interim, I have taken steps to enhance safety and security until the updated system is fully operational. These measures include increased supervisory walkthroughs in pairs, reinforcement of staff training, and the use of body worn cameras when available.

**Recommendation 2:** Continue to explore strategic alternatives to a new jail facility including preparation of updated specifications matching current utilization with approval standards, and evaluation of potential alternative funding sources.

**Response:** I agree with the recommendation. Rising construction costs and restrictive state and federal funding requirements have limited progress on a replacement facility. The County remains committed to the project and is exploring alternative funding opportunities, exploring stackable, modular designed buildings, and advocating for regulatory changes to support rural counties.

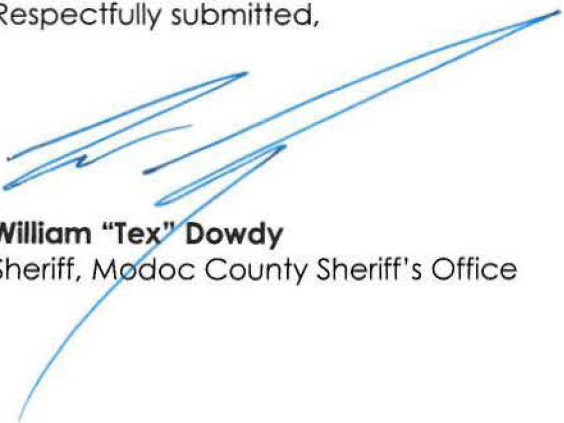
**Recommendation 3:** Continue developing and expanding local recruitment initiatives, including partnerships with local high schools, and seek grants or scholarships aimed at increasing the pool of candidates (which should assist in the recruitment of female deputies as well).

**Response:** I agree with this recommendation. The Sheriff's Office will continue local recruitment initiatives, including high school partnerships, and will seek out grants or scholarships, or other sources of funding to assist with recruitment, with an emphasis on increasing female applicants.

## Conclusion

The Sheriff's Office remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, safety, and accountability in the operation of the Modoc County Jail. We take the Grand Jury's findings and recommendations seriously and will continue working with county leadership and stakeholders to address challenges, improve operations, and ensure compliance with applicable laws and standards.

Respectfully submitted,



**William "Tex" Dowdy**

Sheriff, Modoc County Sheriff's Office