

Criminal Investigations Commander
Captain Marcus Sewell

Uniform Patrol Commander
Captain Brendan Garland

911 Communications
Director Carlton Chester

Office of the Sheriff Lumpkin County

Sheriff Stacy M. Jarrard
Major Douglas E. Cochran

Jail Commander
Captain Danny Rider

Court Services Commander
Captain Jeff Brown

Justification of 2023 Budget Staffing Request

As of 03/25/2022 the Lumpkin County Detention Center has a total of 16 Detention Officer positions. Of those 16 positions 8 of them are Stationary positions that must be manned at all times such as Control 2 tower operator and a booking/processing officer. 4 additional positions include Shift Sergeants whose job is to monitor the detention personnel on each shift.

After subtracting these mandatory positions and the Shift Sergeant, that leaves the Detention center with just 2 detention officers on a shift to serve all meals, as well as transport inmates, supervise sick call, sit in video court hearings, distribute sanitary items, break up fights, restrain unruly inmates, search cells for contraband and weapons, cell inspections for building damages, providing security for building maintenance personnel, supervising deliveries, in person surveillance of mental health and suicidal inmates which need to be completed every 15 to 30 minutes. The detention center is also the main supplier of deputies for the Uniform Patrol Division. We on average send 4 detention officers a year to Mandate losing them for a period of 3 months which lowers our operating numbers.

If we were to gain an additional 2 civilian tower operator positions that would allow us to create two Mon-Fri Split Shifts. This would allow us to free up 1 detention officer from the Stationary Control 2 position across all four shifts. What this simply means is we would be hiring 2 civilians to free up 4 detention officers Mon-Fri.

Doing this relieves stress on the shift and increases productivity throughout the day which lessens the risk of complaints or lawsuits on the County as it increases manpower by 1 detention officer on each shift, but since the tower operator would be a civilian position it also saves the County money as they would not need to be compensated as much as a detention officer since they would carry no certifications or have any inmate contact. This trend has already been set in place by larger facility's such as Forsyth County Jail and Fulton County Jail as Civilians run their towers and booking areas leaving detention officers free to provided security and control of the facility.

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March 31, 2022

TO: Finance

FROM: Major Doug Cochran 

SUBJECT: Further justification on the request for 2 civilian tower operators.

As you know the detention center suffers from a high turnover rate due to the type of work, hours, pay, etc. We, for the last 4 years have been understaffed due to the turnover. The majority of the detention officers are looking to start their career in law enforcement, so we are constantly losing people to go to the deputy sheriff side. To have contact with an inmate, you must be in uniform and a certified jailer within 6 months. If we turn the control tower over to a civilian, this would allow a jailer to come out of the tower and be on the floor supervising the inmates. Civilians are just that, no uniform, no certification, etc. Their duties would be to come to work, go into the tower, sit there for their allotted time to push buttons to open doors, watch cameras and direct floor jailers to potential problems. They are not allowed to come out of the tower at any time to have contact with inmates. By allowing the civilians to take that position over, the extra 2 jailers would be on the floor. Our most critical time as far as personnel and safety is when someone calls in sick, vacation, or if we have to send an inmate to the hospital. That depletes the required people off the floor. Inmates while at hospital have a 24-hour guard at the hospital, the average stay is 2-3 days.

Further, this is an entry position, which would be favorable for a retired, semi-retired person. This person does not have to meet any physical requirements from the sheriff's office, but would go through the civilian hiring process with the starting pay around 28-30 thousand per year

Your consideration is appreciated

Listed below is a chart of the surrounding county jails and their allotted Detention personnel as well as the average number of inmates they house.

Dawson County Jail	White county Jail	Habersham County Jail
Detention Officers- 24	Detention Officers- 23	Detention Officers- 23
Average # of Inmates-130	Average # of Inmates-130	Average # of Inmates-135

Lumpkin County Jail

Detention Officers- 16	Average # of Inmates-130 (If we are housing inmates (170-190))
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