

THE PROBLEM

The Citizens of Carbon County have a public safety issue that must be addressed. This issue has only worsened with time and must be addressed now. More and more, law enforcement deputies are being pulled from their service within our County in order to transport inmates to detention facilities located up to 4 hours away. In this capacity, deputies may spend an entire shift outside of Carbon County. On District Court days occurring twice per month, there is almost complete elimination of law enforcement coverage for the County, as all of the deputies are required to transport inmates back to the County for proceedings. Therefore, if a crime – violent or otherwise – were to occur, law enforcement response is in the *hours* timeframe. Citizens deserve a solution providing a safer community.

THE OPTIONS

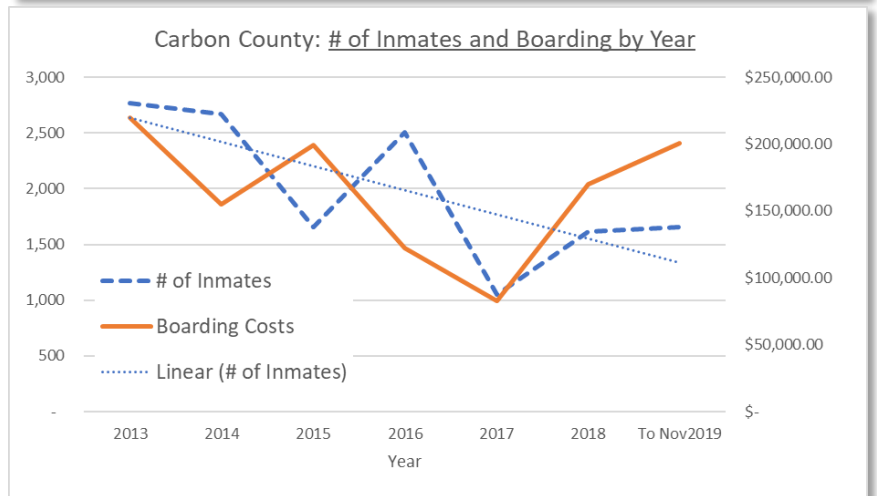
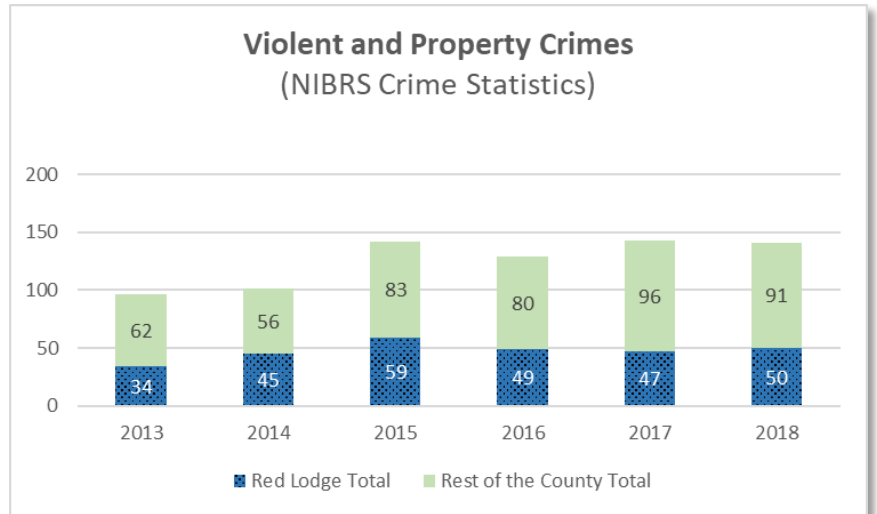
Overcrowding in prisons on a national-level is well-covered in media, but Montana is no exception. Since the closing of Carbon County’s jail at the Courthouse in Red Lodge in 2001, deputies began transporting prisoners to Billings. When Billings reached capacity and became costlier, deputies were required to drive farther to Bozeman. When it, too, reached capacity, deputies were required to drive farther to Forsythe and even Townsend. These facilities have also reached capacity. Carbon County is faced with three options:

- 1) Continue jeopardizing public safety by not detaining those who have committed crimes (ex: outstanding warrants);
- 2) Sending its deputies to facilities in farther reaches of Montana at greater cost while compromising safety for deputies and Carbon County citizens left without law enforcement; or
- 3) Facilitating community input/involvement in the proposed return of a Carbon County Detention Facility.

THE STATISTICS

Crimes

- The number of violent and property crimes charged throughout Carbon County (including municipalities) in 2018 were 141: 50 in Red Lodge, 91 throughout the rest of the County.
- Although total crimes have not changed significantly year-to-year, fewer offenders are being detained due to boarding availability, boarding costs, and transportation constraints.
- As a recent example, on December 3rd, the Sheriff’s Office was contacted regarding a vehicle that was flagged as stolen in the County Treasurer’s Motor Vehicle System. When deputies made contact with the seller, they discovered the offender had a warrant out of Stillwater County for “deceptive practices” and a history of “violent tendencies” based on past interactions with other law enforcement. Yellowstone County Detention Facility was unable to accept him as a prisoner and he was released into the community. Auto theft charges may be pending.



The Costs

- Outstanding warrants left unserved due to lack of facilities/staffing are 211 with an unpaid value to the County of \$481,328. An additional \$271,612 in uncollected warrants/fines were sent to Collections/State.
- From January through November of 2019, Carbon County has paid outside detention facilities for 1,654 days of inmate boarding totaling \$174,737.
- In the first 3 months of 2019, deputies and reserve officers spent a total of 214 hours of their duty time OUTSIDE Carbon County, transporting prisoners 4,408 miles to/from detention facilities in other counties.
- Current Inmate Transportation Costs:

<p><u>Broadwater County Detention Facility: Townsend</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Cost: \$852.43/trip ▪ Boarding: \$65.95/day ▪ Deputy/Reserve Time: 9 hours each 	
<p><u>Gallatin County Detention Facility: Bozeman</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Cost: \$514.43/trip ▪ Boarding: \$75.00/day ▪ Deputy/Reserve Time: 5 hours each 	
<p><u>Rosebud County Detention Facility: Forsyth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Cost: \$529.51/trip ▪ Boarding: \$69.00/day ▪ Deputy/Reserve Time: 5 hours each 	
<p><u>Yellowstone County Detention Facility: Billings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transport Cost: \$205.54/trip ▪ Boarding: \$100.00/day ▪ Deputy/Reserve Time: 2 hours each 	

**Detention Facility Planning Meeting
December 5, 2019**

Questions or requests for information may be directed to:
 The Board of County Commissioners
commissioners@co.carbon.mt.us
 PO Box 887, Red Lodge, MT 59068
 406-446-1595