

TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

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September 23, 2015

The Honorable Tano Tijerina
County Judge, Webb County
1000 Houston, 3rd Floor
Laredo, TX 78040

and

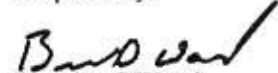
Sheriff Martin Cuellar
Sheriff, Webb County
902 Victoria St.
Laredo, TX 78040

Dear Judge Tijerina and Sheriff Cuellar,

Reference your request for a facility needs analysis. Attached are our findings in report form. This analysis is not a directive, but a tool in guiding you as you plan for a new facility. Local community standards should be applied to these findings to determine the final scope of your construction project.

Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,


Brandon S Wood
Executive Director

Stanley D. Egger, Abilene, Vice Chair
Irene A. Armendariz, Austin
Jerry W. Lowry, New Caney

Sheriff Dennis D. Wilson, Groesbeck
Sheriff Gary Painter, Midland

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"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".
To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas

FACILITY NEEDS ANALYSIS

PREPARED FOR



WEBB COUNTY

Laredo, Texas

September 23, 2015

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to evaluate future county jail capacity needs for Webb County. Information maintained by the Commission and data provided by the Texas State Data Center, the U. S. Census Bureau and the Webb County Sheriff's Office are utilized in this report. In addition, historical jail population trends are presented and assist in predicting future needs.

Review of the statewide adult incarceration system provides perspective for determining the needs for counties. The availability of beds in the state prison system directly affects populations in county jails and has in previous years created a higher county jail population.

Currently the statewide county jail capacity is 95,084 and the inmate population is 66,625. This represents an occupancy level of 70% statewide.

The estimated capacity recommended in this report is not a directive as to what capacity a facility must be designed. Local community standards should be applied to these findings as well as your prison movement status to determine the final scope of your construction project.

CURRENT JAIL CONDITIONS

Webb County currently operates one facility, located at 1001 Washington Street in Laredo, Texas that was built in 1986 with an addition made to the facility in 2001. The facility currently has a capacity of 567 beds consisting of 27 multiple occupancy cells with a combined capacity of 216, 13 dormitories with a capacity of 216, 15 separation cells and 120 single cells. Of these 567 beds, 32 are designated for female use.

The intake area at the Webb County Jail contains five holding cells, two detoxification cells, and one violent cell. On September 1st, 2015, the total population of the Webb County Jail was 585 inmates which included 27 females; these numbers reflect only local inmate population numbers and do not include 16 contract inmates, which consist of federal inmates. In the previous 12 months, Webb County has exceeded its design capacity having an average daily population of 589 inmates each month and has been forced to house out an average of 64 inmates per day to other counties.

The Webb County Jail also provides support for various local and state agencies. These include the Webb County Sheriff's Office, Laredo Police Department, Laredo ISD, United ISD, Texas A&M International, Laredo Community College (North and South Campus), Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Marshalls, Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Alcohol, Tabaco and Firearms, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, El Cenizo Police, Union Pacific Rail Road Police, Kansas City Southern Rail Road Police, Webb County Probation Office, Webb County District and County Attorney's Office, Texas Department Of Public Safety, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Rangers and all precincts of the Webb County Constables Offices.

POPULATION PROJECTIONS

According to the 2010 census data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau, Webb County was home to approximately 250,304 residents which represent a 23% growth factor from the 2000 population census of 193,117. According to 2014 U.S. Census estimates Webb County is home to 266,673 residents representing a 6.13% growth factor from the 2010 population census.

The Texas Data Center provides several scenarios for Webb County in regards to the future population; we have utilized Scenario 0.0 and Scenario 0.5. It should be noted, that these numbers are projections based on several demographic factors and do not take into account actual growth experienced by the county in the previous decade. The Data Center instead bases its projections on a statewide basis, regardless of variations in the actual growth experienced in the County. The State Data Center also recommends most counties utilize scenario 0.5, however due to the amount of growth in the past decade Scenario 0.0 closely reflects the growth of Webb County.

The table below shows Webb County's population and the projected growth until the year 2040 utilizing State Data Center projections minus fixed occupancy housing. It is important to note the Texas Data Center has several scenarios for the future growth of Webb County, which can be viewed at <http://txsdc.utsa.edu/>

Based on Scenario 0.0 projections from the Texas State Data Center, we utilized 15% from 2010 to 2020 as a growth rate factor for this decade. For the decade 2020 to 2030, a growth rate factor of 13% is utilized and an 11% growth rate is utilized for decade 2030 to 2040.

Scenario 0.0

YEAR	POPULATION
*2010	250,304
2015	270,693
2020	293,121
2030	338,098
2040	381,800

Based on Scenario 0.5 projections from the Texas State Data Center, we utilized 18% from 2010 to 2020 as a growth rate factor for this decade. For the decade 2020 to 2030, a growth rate factor of 17% is utilized and a 14% growth rate is utilized for decade 2030 to 2040.

Scenario 0.5

YEAR	POPULATION
*2010	250,304
2015	276,518
2020	305,881
2030	367,576
2040	429,823

The projected rise in the population of Webb County comprises both males and females. Population forecasts are based on many factors that are unpredictable including birth rate, death rate, immigration, and emigration; however, this analysis should be a good model to employ in determining the future jail needs of Webb County.

INCARCERATION RATE TRENDS

In order to calculate the incarceration rate the average daily population (ADP) of the jail is divided by the total county population for the year utilizing both Scenarios 0.0 and 0.5 (per information provided by the Webb County Sheriff's Department). The 2014 population estimate from the US census is also provided along with the incarceration rate for Webb County to serve as a baseline for your inmate population trends over the past two years. The incarceration rate reflects the number of inmates housed per 1,000 people in the county.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>ADP</u>	<u>COUNTY POPULATION</u>	<u>INCARCERATION RATE</u>
2014	527	266,673 <small>2014 CENSUS ESTIMATE</small>	1.98
2015	589	270,693 <small>Scenario 0.0</small>	2.18
2015	589	276,518 <small>Scenario 0.5</small>	2.13

The incarceration rate for Webb County in 2014 is lower than the average State rate of 2.18 of the same year, and it appears that the incarceration rate in 2014 has continued that trend. For use in this analysis, a local incarceration rate of 2.18 (.00218) is used for Scenario 0.0, 2.13 (.00213) is used in Scenario 0.5 will be used to project future needs until the year 2035.

PEAK POPULATION FACTORS

To project future capacity needs for the jail, consideration is given to historical peak inmate populations. Peak populations represent those days in each month when the jail has the highest number of inmates.

The peak population factor represents an additional percentage of beds that are needed in a jail to accommodate those days when the jail population is higher than average. To calculate the peak population factor for Webb County, we utilize data provided by the Sheriff's Office.

The average peak population during the last twelve months was 625 while the average daily population (ADP) was 589; this represents a difference of 36. To calculate the peak population factor, 36 is divided by the ADP of 589 which represents a factor of 6%, which will be utilized in calculating the projected capacity needs in the next section. It should be noted that the peak population of the jail during the last twelve months was 670 inmates which occurred in April 2015, based upon Webb County Sheriff's population report.

PROJECTED CAPACITY NEEDS

Projected needs are based on the county incarceration rate, projected county population, the peak population factor, and a classification percentage.

Scenario 0.0

In this scenario, the county population is multiplied by the incarceration rate (.00218) to yield expected inmate population. A peak population percentage (6%) is then added to the anticipated inmate population which provides a minimum capacity projection. At this time, a classification percentage (10%) is added to ensure a sufficient number of beds are provided for objective jail classification. The following table indicates projected future incarceration needs for Webb County:

Scenario 0.0

Year	Projected County Pop	Incarceration Rate	Projected Inmate Pop	Peak Population	Minimum Capacity	Classification	Total Cap	Suggested size
2010	250,304	2.18	544.48	33.98	578.46	57.85	636	567*
2015	270,693	2.18	588.83	36.75	625.58	62.56	688	567*
2020	293,121	2.18	637.62	39.79	677.42	67.74	745	768
2030	338,098	2.18	735.46	45.90	781.36	78.14	859	864
2035	360,052	2.18	783.21	48.88	832.10	83.21	915	960

* - current capacity

Scenario 0.5

In this scenario, the county population is multiplied by the incarceration rate (.00213) to yield expected inmate population. A peak population percentage (6%) is then added to the anticipated inmate population which provides a minimum capacity projection. At this time, a classification percentage (10%) is added to ensure a sufficient number of beds are provided for objective jail classification. The following table indicates projected future incarceration needs for Webb County:

Scenario 0.5

Year	Projected County Pop	Incarceration Rate	Projected Inmate Pop	Peak Population	Minimum Capacity	Classification	Total Cap	Suggested size
2010	250,304	2.13	533.01	33.27	566.28	56.63	623	567*
2015	276,518	2.13	588.83	36.75	625.58	62.56	688	567*
2020	305,881	2.13	651.36	40.65	692.01	69.20	761	768
2030	367,576	2.13	782.74	48.85	831.59	83.16	915	960
2035	398,740	2.13	849.10	52.99	902.09	90.21	992	1008

* - current capacity

RECOMMENDATION

Scenario 0.0 indicates that Webb County would need, at a minimum, 915 jail beds by the year 2035. However, based upon the 1:48 staff to inmate ratio, we recommend no less than 960 beds be considered **with the capability to expand to 1008 beds in the future to act as a buffer for future unexpected growth. The design professional should also take into account future planning and construction needs based upon past and predicted female incarceration rates (typically 15%) and classification variances of all inmates.** There is an indication that female incarceration rates will continue to increase throughout the state.

You are reminded that our analysis is based on a 20 year proposal beginning in 2015. Failure to meet this time period can affect our projections requiring additional space. Your pretrial felon and misdemeanor figures appear to be consistent with other jails. Any reduction in these numbers could impact your needs. This figure should be assessed as you proceed with any project.

Furthermore, keep in mind when considering these scenarios, that Scenario 0.5 reflects more closely the actual growth currently experienced within Webb County. Scenario 1.0 shows a more optimistic potential growth factor, which could occur by being located near a large metropolitan area.

To state our recommendation more specifically: (1) choose a site sufficient for growth; (2) design a jail that is truly expandable; (3) provide adequate service and support space in the initial design to allow for future expansion. This, in our opinion, is the most feasible and economical approach to your incarceration needs.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Webb County Sheriff's Office currently has approximately 7,680 outstanding warrants and municipalities located within Webb County also have outstanding warrants. In addition, all people arrested by other local Law Enforcement agencies can impact the county jail population, causing unexpected peaks in population.

Second, Webb County has several major highways running across its boundaries. These highways include Interstate 35, U.S. Highway 59, U.S. Highway 83, State Highway 255, State Highway 359, State Loop 20 and Farm to Market Road 1472 which are heavily relied upon by commuters and travelers. Department of Public Safety State Troopers patrolling these highways make arrests on drivers who are trafficking drugs or have misdemeanor violations, felony violations, Parole Violations and previous speeding tickets which can also adversely impact the jail population and cause it to be overcrowded.

Third, Laredo is a major inland point of entry on the U.S. and Mexico border which reports annual and total monthly border crossings in the millions. The large amount of travelers that cross through the county and volume of trade that takes place within the county can have an impact on the incarceration rate experienced by the jail. This increase in incarceration rate can

change drastically dependent upon arrests made within the county by various law enforcement agencies to include local, state and federal.

Fourth, Webb County has several major employers and manufacturers located within its boundaries. All of these industries attract potential employees' that may not live within the county's boundaries and would not be calculated into any future predictions of the County's population.

Fifth, Webb County is the home to two institutions of higher learning with a fall 2014 combined enrollment of over 17,000 students, many of whom commute to the universities from other counties and would not be counted in the census population.

Sixth, Webb County is home to several recreational activities, entertainment events, festivals, State Park and two large Arena/Stadium Entertainment Venues that attract additional visitors that can reach into the thousands per event. These numbers could possibly impact the jail population at times, when these events are taking place.

All of these factors play a major role in deciding whether or not Webb County needs a new jail. With increasing population, highway traffic, tourist attractions, and outstanding warrants the projected inmate population can only be expected to increase.

Please contact the Commission at the address below to obtain additional copies of this document.

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