



Jennings County Sheriff's Office

P.O.Box 367, Vernon, Indiana 47282 812-346-8642



Wm. Kenny Freeman, Sheriff

2019 Jennings County Sheriff's Office Annual Jail Report

Jennings County Jail located at 925 south State Street, North Vernon, Indiana 47265. Mailing address is: P. O. Box 367 Vernon, Indiana 47282.

The current jail was constructed and opened 1 April, 2001.

Jail total beds – 144 (124 in the back/ 20 in the holding area, includes 8 for inmate workers)

1- Padded cell and 1 large - Detox holding cell

Average daily population for 2018 – 168

Booking for 2018 – 2362

Releases for 2018 – 2362

Juveniles – 1

Escapes – 1

Deaths in custody- 0

Top 10 Offenses:

- 1) Possession of Methamphetamine
- 2) Operating while Intoxicated
- 3) Wanted on Warrant
- 4) Court Orders
- 5) Theft
- 6) Possession of Narcotic or Legend Drug Violation
- 7) Criminal Confinemet
- 8) Maintaining a common nuisance
- 9) Possession of Marijuana
- 10) Domestic Battery

Transports for the year: Approx. 400 transports spanning around 65,000 miles.

The total Department of Corrections reimbursement to Jennings County for 2018 was \$525,969.

Jennings County Jail Services

In 2019, The Jennings County Jail Division started several programs inside the jail aimed at providing inmates, upon their release, tools to assist them in life once they rejoin the community. Additionally, we continued with past programs and/or expanded upon them.

New for 2019 is the male and female work release pilot program. This was started in collaboration with Rose Acre Farms and Decatur Plastic Products.

Rose Acres put the first male inmate to work in July of 2019. 5 Inmates were selected based on certain classification criteria. To be eligible the inmates had to be sentenced, be within 6 months of release and no violent criminal history. The inmates were provided with a debit card by employers and keep their wages that they earned. This offered the inmate money in the bank after release and a job for their future. Currently one of the first five is still employed and is in a supervisor's position.

Decatur Plastic Products started with 3 females. The female inmates also were selected on the same criteria that the male inmates were selected from. One of the first four also continues to work for Decatur Plastic Products.

Both companies provide transportation to and from work. This program was designed to be no cost to the tax payers.

Also, in 2019, in conjunction with Residents Encounter Christ (REC) we have started a male and female "Celebrate Recovery". This is a Faith Based program that helps with addiction.

The Jennings County Jail Division believes that Faith and Church are very important so we have raised the number off bible studies from 2 per week to 4 per week and in 2020 we will be adding at least two more per week.

The Jennings County Jail has partnered with Centerstone to provide mental health care, recovery addiction classes, both individual and group sessions.

Another program that we have started was the "Break Free Program" This is a pilot program that was started for a select group of about 20 female inmates. This program offers addiction counseling, grief counseling, domestic Violence, finance classes and parenting classes. The goal is to prepare the inmate for life after release and provide the tools to be successful. The Jennings County Jail is developing a similar program for the male inmate population at the end of 2020.

Jennings County Jail Officers were busy in 2019 with training. A total of 754 man-hours were dedicated to training. In addition to mandatory topics for jail officers, defensive tactics, handcuffing, and firearms, we also trained in Medical, Decision making / Use of Force and several less lethal classes. In 2019 we sent several officers to instructor schools. These courses include, Taser Instructor, Pepper-ball Instructor, and FN303 less lethal Launcher Instructor. This allows the Jennings County Jail Division to quickly get our jail officers certified to use multiple tools to do their job safely, without reliance on outside agencies for training.

Our Corrections Emergency Response Team (CERT) was revamped in the beginning of 2019. The purpose of this team is to combat high risk situations in the jail, such as riots, cell extractions, jail wide searches and high-risk transports to and from court and/or prisons. The CERT team will assist in security at the courthouse during trials and other high-risk situations as needed. The team consists of 10 men and women who train monthly. Several members were sent to West Virginia in April of 2019 for training in a repurposed prison with CERT teams from around the United States.

Jail Health (Nurse's assessment)



The health assessment of the jail is better than it has ever been. There are some pro-active measures that we take in the jail to help keep inmates healthy. We keep it clean which helps prevent disease and the spread of germs. We also have a company that comes into the facility and sprays monthly that mitigates germs, viruses, mildew and other things. We believe that this helps reduce the amount of colds, flu, and skin infections. (number of skin infections in 2017 & 2018 = 42 and the number in 2019 was 6)

The nurse, jail commander and the Jennings County Health Department have been working together to battle the hepatitis in the jail when this administration started 1 January 2019. The first reportable hepatitis A infection was reported 11 September, 2018. A total of 11 active cases of hepatitis A illness were diagnosed and treated at the jail 2018 to 2019. We have had NO cases since that time.

When Sheriff Freeman's administration took over in January of 2019, the jail division was battling a Hepatitis A problem, as were several other jails in the area. A few inmates were quarantined inside the jail to the best of the jail staff's ability. A meeting was arranged with the Jennings County Jail Division's Head Nurse, Lisa Carmer. A plan was formulated, in January 2019, with collaboration of the Jennings County Health Department, The Jennings County Jail Commander and jail medical staff and a private infectious disease control company, the outbreak was quickly contained, and soon after completely eradicating the disease from the jail.

Staff Issues / Miscellaneous

According to the Jail Staffing Analysis (completed in 2016) the jail is short 7 jail officers and put the other officers in eminent danger.

County Council and Commissioners are now aware of the staff shortage. In 2019 the County Council and Commissioners approved two new employees for the beginning of 2020, and hopefully 2 more every year until we are staffed correctly.

The Jennings County Jail was given a fresh coat of paint in 2019. This was done with the help of inmates, helping us save taxpayer dollars where we can. Also, we installed new triple bunks in the males and female dorms. This raised our bed space to 144, up from 124. This move assisted us in getting inmates off the floor.

2019 Jail Inspection Results



(left Kenny Whipker -State Jail Inspector, middle

Sheriff Kenny Freeman, right Jail Commander Jason Bliton)

The jail did very well during the annual jail inspection. There were two negative responses to the 219 inspection questions – they were “not enough beds for inmates and the ratio for inmates to showers was too great”. We are going to address these two items over the next couple of years.

William Kenny Freeman

Wm. Kenny Freeman

Jennings County Sheriff

20 March 2019

Jason Bliton

Jason Bliton

Jennings County Jail Commander

Recidivism (the tendency to re-offend)

One of the goals of the Sheriff’s Office is to reduce the recidivism rate in Jennings County Jail. In order to do that we have to exam what the rate is and what are the root causes of recidivism.

The number of inmates booked in to the county jail for 2019 was 2,362 people. We divided the number of people who were re-arrested to include the 158 inmates that were present in the jail on 1 January 2019 by the number booked-in, which is a 60% recidivism rate. However, when you take out the number of inmates that were booked in for weekend jail time (47 people were booked 385 times due to weekend time) the number is more accurate as a true recidivism rate – is 44% after the weekenders are taken out of the equation.

Of note, the percentage of the people who were re-arrested of just the 158 inmates in the jail on 1 January 2019 is 38%. Which should mean that on any given day at the jail – one could take the jail list and estimate that 38% of those people would return to the Jennings County Jail within the next 365 days.

Sheriff's Office Work Release Programs

Rose Acres Farms (partnership)



Rose Acres came to us early in the year and asked if we could work out some type of work release program. We developed the plan together into a wonderful partnership.

The Rose Acres Farms partnership with the Jennings County Sheriff's Office was our pilot program for the male inmates. Transportation is provided by the business and the inmate workers get paid directly from the company. This is a great benefit to the inmates when they get released from jail. They have a head start, financially. There has always been an issue with someone who is released from jail and gets a job – then have to wait for their first paycheck.

The program began with 5 inmates and grew over the year. A total of 17 inmates had the opportunity to work at Rose Acres. Four of those were pulled back by the jail due to violations or jail behavior. A total of 13 graduated from the program and continued to work there. However, 3 of the original 17 still work there and 7 others have been terminated for various reasons.

Statistics:

If 17 entered the program and 13 graduated = 76%

17% (3 People) still work there.

Decatur Plastic Products INC (partnership)



Decatur Plastic Products partnership with the Jennings County Sheriff's Office work release program: Started 8 August 2019 with three members all of those members graduated. Of those three: one continues to work at DPP, one went on to work at Wendy's and one pointed out at the beginning of 2020.

A total of 7 female inmates participated in the program between 8 August 2019 and 31 December. The Jail pulled back 3 of the inmates for criminal behavior (conspiracy to traffic drugs or theft). Two of those three only worked one day so they will not be included in the statistics as a measure. That would leave 5 (really) participated. NOTE: one of the inmates of all 7 is still in jail.

Statistics:

If 5 entered the program and 4 graduated = 80%

20% (1 person) still works there. However, 60% (3 people) are still gainfully employed.

It will be important to continue to track members that started the program in order to rate the success. There are so many variables that effect the statistics – that may or may not be linked to the program at all.

Jennings County Jail Work Crew

The work crew are inmates that are transported by the jail to the work sites for the County or City Projects. Their projects are limited to government owned work. They are monitored by a jail officer or deputy to maintain custody.

“Female Work-Crew Painting”



Work-Crew at the Fair



Road Deputy Statistics



Arrests	.....	Total = 952
Traffic Stops	.....	Total = 2,315
Paper service	.....	Total = 2,764
Number of times dispatched	.....	Total = 10,928
Case Reports	.....	Total = 1632
Crash Reports	.....	Total = 375
Miles Patrolled	.....	Total = 391,428 (approximately)



Training Deputies

In addition to all the other duties that deputies perform they have to keep up with their training. There are mandatory topics that must be updated annually and then there is the additional training that we require to keep our team top notch. Also, many of our deputies are instructor qualified and must complete a certain amount of platform instruction time to stay current and qualified. The number of hours that our full-time deputies completed last year was 1,195 hours. The reserve deputies completed 1,167 and the instructors completed 248 hours of instruction time. Total hours training including SWAT and jail staff hours is 4,260 hours.

Highway Deaths in Jennings County 2019 compared to 2018

In 2018 there were 9 collision fatalities. 5 of the 9 were collisions on highway 50. 2 other collisions were on highway 7. Last year (2019) there were 7 collision fatalities. Fatality collisions on highway 7 increased in 2019 to 5 of the 7. However, there were zero collision fatalities on highway 50.

There was one fatality in 2018 where alcohol was present in the deceased's system. In 2019, there were two fatalities where alcohol was present in the deceased's system, one fatality where THC was in the deceased's system and one fatality where multiple drugs were in the deceased's system.

The only good news above is that fatalities were reduced by 22% from the previous year.



Note: this picture is not from a fatality

Sheriff's Senior Representatives (TRIAD)

Our senior representatives conducted 92 home visits to elderly folks. They attended or conducted 14 meetings with outside organizations. They occupied a booth at the fair for 5 evenings. Made business and agency contact with 31 providers. Additionally, made 42 referrals to other organizations. Their biggest accomplishments were hands on projects for elderly: Built a deck, built a handicap ramp, yard maintenance, appliance repair/replacement. Finally, they mailed Christmas cards to all their clients.



K9 Unit's Report



VAMPIR



AXEL



Our K9 program is vital to our counter drug operations. We are very proud of our K9 program. The training group that our K9s belong to is among the best in the nation. Having the flexibility to use K9s is a great asset to the Sheriff's Office. In addition to doing work in our county we sometimes get called by surrounding agencies to assist in article searches, apprehensions, school walk throughs and tracking subjects.

K9 Annual Summary Team Statistics

They had a total of 255 deployments, detection and patrols. They had 48 non-physical apprehensions and 10 physical apprehensions, 164 total arrests were contributed to the K9 teams. The total training hours and certification were more than 500 hours.

The Reserve Deputy Program



The reserve deputy program is very important to the Sheriff's Office. This year we ran two reserve classes and graduated 15 reserve officers. Our reserves volunteered 5,475 hours to law enforcement, serving court documents and training. The value put onto our reserve program is approximately two and a half deputies which would cost the county about 130,000 dollars plus the benefits that would go with full time employment.

NOTE: The two main reasons people want to be part of the reserve program are: one they are trying to get the foot in the door to later make law enforcement their career and two they want to do law enforcement, but their careers pay a lot more than full time police officer.

Jennings County SWAT Team Training Philosophy

The Jennings County SWAT members CO-TRAIN with the Indiana State Police SWAT monthly. This training philosophy allows for a smooth transition between teams when necessary. Our training is focused on SWAT fundamentals and marksmanship. We have partnered with Country Squire Lakes Management to provide us with different and realistic training venues. We use the SWAT team in various roles to include arrest warrant service, search warrant security, and other high-risk situations.





Jennings County Sheriff's Posse



CPR Training

Helicopter EVAC

Monthly Meeting

The Jennings County Sheriff's Posse is a search and rescue team that conducts monthly training on various topics. Additionally, they conduct a couple exercises annually that incorporate the training, communication and movement throughout the county. The Posse is a group of volunteers that use horses, UTVs and ATVs as transportation to search for missing persons. The organization of a team of people is very useful in an emergency situation. Additionally, they patrol the County Fair and participate in local parades.



Jennings County Detectives Division

Our detective division is made up of three detectives, one of those is our narcotics detective. They conduct the majority of our major crimes that are going to result in lengthy investigations.



Miscellaneous

The Sheriff's Office believes in total transparency. We have been successful in keeping the community informed via our Facebook page and news releases throughout the year. Our Facebook following is up to 11,000 followers and 10,500 likes before the end of the year (we reach about 40,000 people weekly through our Facebook). We had stories that went around the world to as far away as the Philippines and almost every State in newspapers and television news broadcast.

Our commissary is a major source of funding we use for training, equipment and systems to support both the jail and the deputies. The beginning balance of the commissary this year was \$107,061.39 and the ending balance on 31 December 2019 was \$129,955.98.

Administrative Office

The administrative office is the face of our Sheriff's Office. They assist the walk-in public and answer the phones during our business hours. They track and forward all case reports to the prosecutor's office and other agencies.

Our front office does many tasks: checking warrants, payroll, commissary, balancing all our books, tax warrants, sheriff sales, hand gun permits, visits, printing accident reports, and turning in claims. Monthly, quarterly, and annually fill out, file and track the Uniform Crime Report.

We process all the paper service from the courts, track, and follow up to ensure proper service. We served 690 tax warrants and conducted 44 Sheriff sales. We processed 258 gun permits in 2019. Also, they processed and printed 376 accident report-request.

Community Out-Reach

CSL Fishing Tournament



Campbell FD Open House



County Park Activities



Halloween Tradition



County Fair Events



Joy of Giving "Buggy Ride"



Cemetary Clean-Up



4th of July



“Rotary Auction”



School Walk-Throughs



Sunny Day in Scipio

