Substandard County jail must meet new requirements

By CRAIG ROGERS

Battalion Reporter ding to the 1977 Brazos / Jail Inspection Report by the Commission on Jail Standards e at least 41 areas where the County Jail does not meet re-ents. The 1977 report was the

iggest area of concern is the detention area. Currently e not enough jail personnel

pervise the area continually. ge W.T. McDonald, of the District Court, decertified the ile detention facility and forced nty to place all juvenile prisin other jails. Head Jailer Boyd said the juveniles must sported to as far away as

msported to as far away as ron, Centerville and Austin. mty Judge Dick Holmgreen his problem has been the er one priority for the jail and is "it is fast approaching the where it will meet the re-

ertified there were five fullilers. At night this left only son on hand to supervise the floor jail, and to process pris-which is done on the first

have been authorized by Holmgreen to insure two jail-

we the jail recertified for

problems with the county not be as easy to correct. oblems ranging from increasghting, adding shelves and ng the number of cells, Boyd problem is a lack of money.

will be corrected. things wrong include minor such as door stops and shelves, so includes changing the cell

he last meeting of the County issioners' Court Holmgreen

report, the jail has a capacity of ble. Boyd says that the jail is

green said that he felt the

was built it was a model for other jails, but the rules change.

Boyd says this is the case with the Brazos jail. He says the Texas Commission on Jail Standards has only been in existence a couple of years. He said they brought in a lot of new rules when they began operation. He said the county is trying to comply with the new standards, but it needs more money, men and public support.

Holmgreen refused to estimate the cost of a new jail or the cost to fix the existing jail. Both Holmgreen and Boyd did agree it would run into the millions of dollars.

Holmgreen said he wanted the county to be able to correct the problem on its own. He said that Dallas County had recently had the same

Rather than face this possibility, Holmgreen says the panel he is appointing will study the matter so that the county can handle the problem itself

In the report presented to the county commissioners, the grand jury praised the sheriff's department for the work done with limited manpower, but stressed the need for additional money for equipment and personnel.

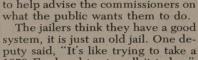
In order to pay for an additional spending program the report called for a re-evaluation of property taxes. At the Commissioners' Court meeting where the report was heard, Judge Holmgreen praised the jury saying it was the first group he had heard propose a method to collect the additional money needed for in-

The Robertson County Jail was re-

Standards did not close jails. He said oy svyd as an advisory body to help the county comply with the laws

Boyd told of the jail progress say-ing, "I think we are making good progress. We are in a lot better shape than when I came here two years

Holmgreen agreed saying he was just finding out the extent of the problem and needed input from the community. That is why he chose to appoint the panel of private citizens, to help advise the commissioners on



puty said, "It's like trying to take a 1959 Ford and try to sell it today."

Robertson County was forced to pay \$250,000 to make improvements in order to keep out of legal trouble.



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