

JAIL FACTS

Maintenance costs continue to increase

Total costs in five-year increments

2000-04: \$352,405

2005-09: \$527,045

2010-14: \$1,127,810

Major maintenance and repair projects in recent years have included plumbing replacement (\$565,543), HVAC repairs (\$32,442), kitchen floor replacement (\$25,449) and replacing broken jail doors (\$247,942).

The jail reached its 20-year capacity eight years early

The 1999 expansion to 337 beds was estimated to last 20 years. As of 2011, according to a county-commissioned study, "the jail is basically at full capacity." Over the past 12 months, the county periodically has sent prisoners to Guadalupe County at a direct cost of \$50 per prisoner per day (not counting transport and personnel costs) because the current jail did not have room for them.

Comal County growth expected to continue

A 2009 assessment by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards and a 2012 architect's study recommended building a jail that can accommodate the county's future growth.

Ten entities, including six municipalities, use the jail

The Comal County Jail serves not just the sheriff's office and four constables who patrol the unincorporated county, but also the cities of New Braunfels, Bulverde, Garden Ridge, Selma, Schertz and Fair Oaks Ranch, the Texas Departments of Public Safety and Parks and Wildlife, and the U.S. Marshals.

Bond election comes after years of preparation

- After the 2012 jail study, the county began looking at potential sites for a new jail.
- After looking at sites for a new jail along FM 306 and FM 482, Comal County purchased 11.5 acres adjoining the current jail for \$1.675 million in August 2014.
- In early 2015, Commissioners Court contracted with Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects to estimate the cost of building a new jail and renovating the current jail and law enforcement center into new sheriff's offices.
- On Aug. 10, Brinkley Sargent Wiginton returned a preliminary design and estimate of about \$76 million.

Overall effect on county tax rate will be 1 cent

To fund the bond purchase, the county estimates raising its property tax rate by 1 cent per \$100 of value. For property valued at \$200,000, that's an increase of \$20 per year.