



New Capitol
Post Office Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215-1018
Office: 601-359-2220

901 Lynn Lane
Starkville, MS 39759
bwilliams@senate.ms.gov

Mississippi State Senate

SENATOR BART WILLIAMS

District 15

Choctaw, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, and Webster Counties

18 April 2022

Honorable Trent Kelly
First Congressional District
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Representative Kelly,

I am writing today to request your support for funding a new county jail in Webster County.

The current facility was constructed in 1968 with an addition to the facility being constructed in 1978. There are 26 total inmate beds with only 4 being available separately for female inmates. Webster County maintains 5 fulltime deputies, 3 fulltime jailers/dispatchers, and 1 accountant. Along with the building serving as the jail, it is also serving as the sheriff's office.

After a personal tour of the current facilities (Spring 2021), along with multiple meetings between myself and the Webster County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff David Gore, it is my opinion that any attempt to modernize or repair the current facilities is economically cost prohibitive.

This building is not in compliance with Federal or State Building Codes at this time. There is drainage problems, wiring issues, rotting wood, ventilation issues, and much more. The facility does not meet the current American Disabilities act and there is no room to separate inmates with issues that are easily communicable such as COVID.

Sheriff Gore is doing the best he can with the facility he has inherited, but it is time we step up and help. The people of Webster County have maximized the return on their original investment in this facility and it's time for a new facility which meets federal and state standards.

Myself, and the People of Webster County thank you for your consideration and support.

Thank you,

Bart Williams
Senator
District 15

Mississippi House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Medicaid, Chairman
Appropriations
Drug Policy
Energy
Judiciary - A
Judiciary In Banc



Post Office Box 759
Ackerman, MS 39735
Home 662-547-9818
Work 662-285-4663
jhood@house.ms.gov

REPRESENTATIVE JOEY HOOD

District 35
Attala, Choctaw, Webster
and Winston Counties

April 14, 2022

Re: Webster County Command / Detention Center
Webster County, Mississippi

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my understanding that Webster County has requested \$4,000,000.00 for the purposes of building a new Webster County Command / Detention Center. Webster County is in my legislative district.

The current Webster County Command / Detention Center facility is in need of repairs and replacements due to the fact that it is not up to current regulations. The newly constructed facility will serve as the county 911 command center, the Emergency Management command center and will also house the Justice Court of Webster County. I am writing this letter to encourage you to support the request of Webster County for funding of a new facility to serve as the Webster County Command / Detention Center as outlined above.

If you have any questions or require anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

With warmest regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joey Hood", is written over the typed name "Rep. Joey Hood".

Rep. Joey Hood

cc: Webster County

TOWN MATHISTON
P.O. BOX 178
MATHISTON, MISSISSIPPI 39752
662-263-4898

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to take a few minutes of your time to discuss our extreme need for a new detention center for our county (Webster County, Mississippi). My name is Jimmy Carden and I have served as the Mayor of the Town of Mathiston, Mississippi which is located in the eastern edge of Webster County for the past 32 years.

Mathiston is a small municipality roughly 900 constituents this means that we do not have the necessary resources to have and operate our own detention facility. We are fortunate to have the detention center in Webster County and that the Sheriff allows us to house our prisoners.

Each year the county selects the Grand Jury to handle legal matters, and they are also responsible for the inspection and recommendations for repairs of the county facilities, that includes the courthouse, Sheriff's office, jail, and all other county owned facilities each term. The finding of the Grand Jury inspections are printed in the local newspaper. The reported needs at the detention center have increased on a yearly basis and have been addressed with the use of the "bandaid" repair method. The past several years the problems have worsened at a rapid rate and have resulted and have resulted in more and more bandaids until proper repairs are no longer possible.

The detention facility in Webster County is outdated, worn out, unsanitary and in such a state of disrepair that its shameful site to house prisoners much less employees of the Sheriffs Office. Its very surprising that the United States Justice Department has not closed the facility and fined the state of Mississippi as well.

The State of Mississippi has 82 counties. Webster County being the top of the list of poorest counties in the state. We have very good and hard working citizens in Webster County but we have a very limited number of manufacturing jobs leading to a very limited tax base for capital improvements projects.

As Mayor of the Town of Mathiston and as a lifelong citizen of Webster County I sincerely ask that the committees take a very hard look at our situation enable us to secure a new detention center for Webster County,

Regards,

Jimmy Carden / Mayor

TOWN OF MANTEE

67 First Street, PO Box 2384/ Mantee, MS 39751

April 19, 2022

Greetings all,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my supporting opinion concerning the need in Webster County for new and modern facilities to accommodate Justice Court, 911, Sheriff Department, emergency management and our Supervisors into one new command center, which by the mere fact of being in one building would mean a far better result of taking care of our County's business especially in times when we have a Tornado or any disaster that might befall us. If this facility could also be built as a hardened storm shelter for all its occupants and the Village of Walthall would be even better and much needed.

The current facilities are a shame, a shame that the employees have to work there and that any visitors or occupants use the current buildings because of the deplorably bad condition of these buildings and that is a factual understatement.

I commend the current administration for trying to acquire adequate facilities for Webster County, I understand that \$4,000,000 is needed to build. I assure anyone concerned there will never be a better \$4,000,000 spent in any fashion in any location in our Great United States.

We currently have good management in place with a great plan, now we the good people of Webster County desperately need a helping hand to attain the funding to build this plan. A plan that will greatly benefit all of our Webster County people, our surrounding counties and even folks just traveling through.

So I am humbly asking and pleading, to please fund this \$4,000,000 project in its entirety for all the good but poor people of Webster County Mississippi.

And thank you for your valuable time.

Mayor Mary Francis Baker
Town of Mantee

Mary F. Baker, Mayor



City of Eupora

Mayor Blake McMullan

April 13, 2022

Congressman Trent Kelly

2243 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

RE: Webster County Sheriff Detention Center

Dear Congressman Trent Kelly,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for the Webster County Sheriff Department's funding proposal for building a new Detention Center. This facility achieves the goal of improving inmates' access to rehabilitation programs which would help them to properly reintegrate into society. Importantly, the new constructed building would replace an existing building beyond repairs that was erected in the 1960s. A new Detention Center would be a great addition to the newly constructed Webster County Courthouse and will allow departments to be centrally located. The City of Eupora will benefit from the closing of the existing old jail located in the heart of the city. This will be an economic driver for retail growth in the City of Eupora.

Furthermore, the importance of providing this funding in a small rural community as the Village of Walthall can't be understated for the safety of citizens, deputies, and Sheriff.

This project deserves full support from Congress. I look forward to its successful completion and ask for your full consideration of this project.

Sincerely,

Blake McMullan

City of Eupora Mayor