



## **CHRISTIAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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COMMITMENT \* INTEGRITY \* SERVICE

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

January 28, 2022

When I became sheriff in 2010, I realized the Christian County Jail was poorly designed and becoming obsolete. Since then, we have had assessments done to determine whether the existing jail should be modified or if we need to plan for a new facility. I have always been frugal with the money that you, as taxpayers, provide the Sheriff's Office and also know that the greatest expense we have, and therefore the greatest expense you pay my Office, is for the operation of the Christian County Jail. Because of that burden, we have been diligent about this process but in recent years it has become clear that something must be done. Last April, we asked for a vote to support the costs of a new jail but the people of Christian County turned it down.

However, I cannot simply let that be the end of the discussion. The design and conditions in our 45-year-old jail compel me to do something. This should not be solely my decision, nor the County Board. It should be a decision based on community input and understanding. It is your money and it is the future safety of your county. I have formed an advisory committee consisting of citizens and government officials to examine the problem, understand the options and come forward with their recommendations of what should be done. Over the next few months, the committee will work to identify options, gather opinions, examine funding alternatives and make other efforts to ensure the final recommendations are as thought-out and wise as possible. We will be educating you along the way and ask for your input and your support of this effort. It is complicated and expensive in the end, but with your input and the efforts of the committee, we will come to the right decision.