

Burleigh Morton Detention Center



Government Finance Committee

Regional Jail Study Subcommittee

December 11th, 2025

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Burleigh Morton Detention Center

Owned by Burleigh County and Morton County

Funded by Burleigh County and Morton County based on a cost share agreement.

Operated by the Burleigh County Sheriff's Department

Facility Statistics

555 Bed Facility (Largest County Jail in North Dakota)

93 Staff (Staffed for current inmate population needs)

Includes Correctional Officers, Nursing, Behavioral Health, Programs, Maintenance, and Clerical

Average Daily Population (ADP)

2017- 227 ADP

2018- 255 ADP

2019- 262 ADP

2020- 240 ADP

2021- 243 ADP

2022- 210 ADP

2023- 241 ADP

2024- 263 ADP

2025- 320 ADP

2025 Bookings- 7,600 or approximately 21 per day

32% Female Bookings

68% Male Bookings

2025- 350,000+ Meals Served

2024 Average Length of Stay 12.5 days.

Daily Housing Agreements

2026 Daily Rates \$115 per day for all Counties, State, and Federal

Bismarck Police Department

Mandan Police Department

Lincoln Police Department

Emmons County Sheriff's Department

Kidder County Sheriff's Department

Sheridan County Sheriff's Department

Grant County Sheriff's Department

Logan County Sheriff's Department

McIntosh County Sheriff's Department

Sioux County Sheriff's Department

Lamoure County Sheriff's Department

Cass County Sheriff's Department

Griggs County Sheriff's Department

Trail County Sheriff's Department

North Dakota Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation

United States Marshal Service

United States Border Patrol

United States Immigrations & Customs Enforcement

United States Bureau of Prisons

North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations

120 Guaranteed Bed Agreement

-Have agreed to terms.

-Final legal approval pending

-Pending formal approval from the Burleigh Morton Detention Center Jail Governance Committee.

This agreement is for 120 bed minimum security POD to include programming rooms, and additional space for DOCR staff working at the BMDC. BMDC will provide the security staff. DOCR will be providing case management, counseling, treatment, and other professional staff. This POD will mainly house overflow inmates from DOCR to relieve DOCR population challenges.

BMDC will continue to house some DOCR inmates under the daily rate agreement going forward.

-Female DOCR Inmates

-Probation Holds

-Parole Holds

-DOCR Short Sentences

-Deferred Admissions

-Other DOCR inmates as needed

BMDC estimates that between the Guaranteed Bed Agreement and the Daily Rate Agreement there will be between 130-150 DOCR inmates housed daily at the BMDC in the future.

BMDC Average Inmate Holding Jurisdiction Population, December 2025

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Average Number of Inmates Per Day</u>
Burleigh & Morton County	190-200
U.S. Marshal Service	70-75
N.D. Department of Corrections	70-75
Immigrations and Customs Enforcement	20-30
Bismarck Police Department	10-15
Other ND Counties	5
Mandan Police Department	1

* The U.S. Marshal Service has 350-400 prisoners in custody from the North Dakota District. There are no federal holding facilities in North Dakota, so the U.S. Marshal prisoners are held in county jails or in other states.

* Most ICE detainees at BMDC have been apprehended in North Dakota or Minnesota.

Population Trends at BMDC

Less local prisoners allowed BMDC to hold more contract prisoners.

Decreased usage by city court for both Bismarck and Mandan.

Less Burleigh County and Morton County District Court held prisoners.

Possible Reasons

24/7 Sobriety Program

Pretrial Services

Specialized Courts- Drug Court

Bond Reform

Efficiencies of Regional Facilities

Most Jails in North Dakota serve a geographic region. N.D. has 53 Counties and only 19 Jails.

- 17- Grade One Jails (Confinement up to 1 year)
- 2- Grade Two Jails (Confinement up to 90 days)
- 0- Grade Three Jails (Confinement up to 96 hours)
- 11- Grade Four Facilities (Confinement up to 8 hours)

Jails and Prisons are expensive to staff, operate, and build. It is not cost effective or efficient for each County to operate a jail.

It is less expensive for some organizations to contract to house inmates than to operate and staff their own jail.

Larger jails can provide medical services, programming, and treatment more efficiently than smaller facilities.

Operating Challenges

More complex/challenging inmate population. A substantial percentage of the jail population suffer from moderate to severe behavioral health and addiction issues.

Staffing challenges/workforce shortages.

Statewide bed shortage for inmates.

Bed shortage for female inmates. Not all jails house female inmates.

Increased medical transports.

Long wait times for treatment and/or evaluations at the State Hospital.

Long term funding for jail operations. The 3% cap on property tax levies create challenges for future budgets. The 3% cap limits the ability to add additional bed space, staff, treatment, programming, and security upgrades at the county level.

Recent Legislative Benefits for Jails

North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services providing Telehealth for behavioral health treatment from Integrated Telehealth Partners.

Correctional Facility Grant Program (CFGP) for jail-based programming.