

Butner Public Safety

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for
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BUTNER PUBLIC SAFETY

Issue Statement

Should the state transfer costs for Butner Public Safety from the state to the locality surrounding Butner or disband the unit altogether?

In its 1991 report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, Systems Design Group recommended as follows:

“We recommend that Butner Public Safety be disbanded. Specifically, we recommend that police and fire services be provided by counties, Wildlife Officers patrol state lands, and that new security personnel provide protective services to state buildings and property.” (Recommendation J-1)

Background

Butner Public Safety was established in the late 1940s after World War II as a response to closing this military camp by the federal government. During the 1940s the state purchased most of the land encompassed by Camp Butner and established several state facilities. Currently, Butner is home to 7 state facilities including juvenile justice facilities, a state mental hospital and a National Guard firing range. In addition, there is a federal prison still located in Butner. Currently, Camp Butner is home to approximately 4,500 private citizens. The citizens of Butner are assessed 20 cents per \$100 of assessed value by the counties of Durham and Granville for public safety services provided by the state for the whole camp Butner territory. The Camp

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Butner Territory is located approximately 90% in Granville County and 10% in Durham County.

The Butner Public Safety officers have the same law enforcement authority as the Sheriffs of Durham and Granville counties. In addition, some officers from Butner Public Safety are responsible for the transport of any individuals transferred to or from any state facility within the territorial jurisdiction to the North Carolina Memorial Hospital for psychiatric services.

There are seven state institutions/centers in Butner and four other state facilities in the Butner Territory. These include:

- o John Umpstead Hospital (state mental hospital)
 - Whitaker School (juvenile detention), and
 - Butner Adolescent training center.
- o Umpstead Correctional Center (minimum security adult correctional center).
- o Murdock Center (developmentally disabled children and adults).
- o California Dillon (juvenile detention center).
- o Alcohol Drug Abuse Treatment Center.
- o North Carolina National Guard Range.
- o North Carolina State University Agricultural Research Center.
- o North Carolina Department of Agriculture Food Distribution Warehouse.

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- o North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

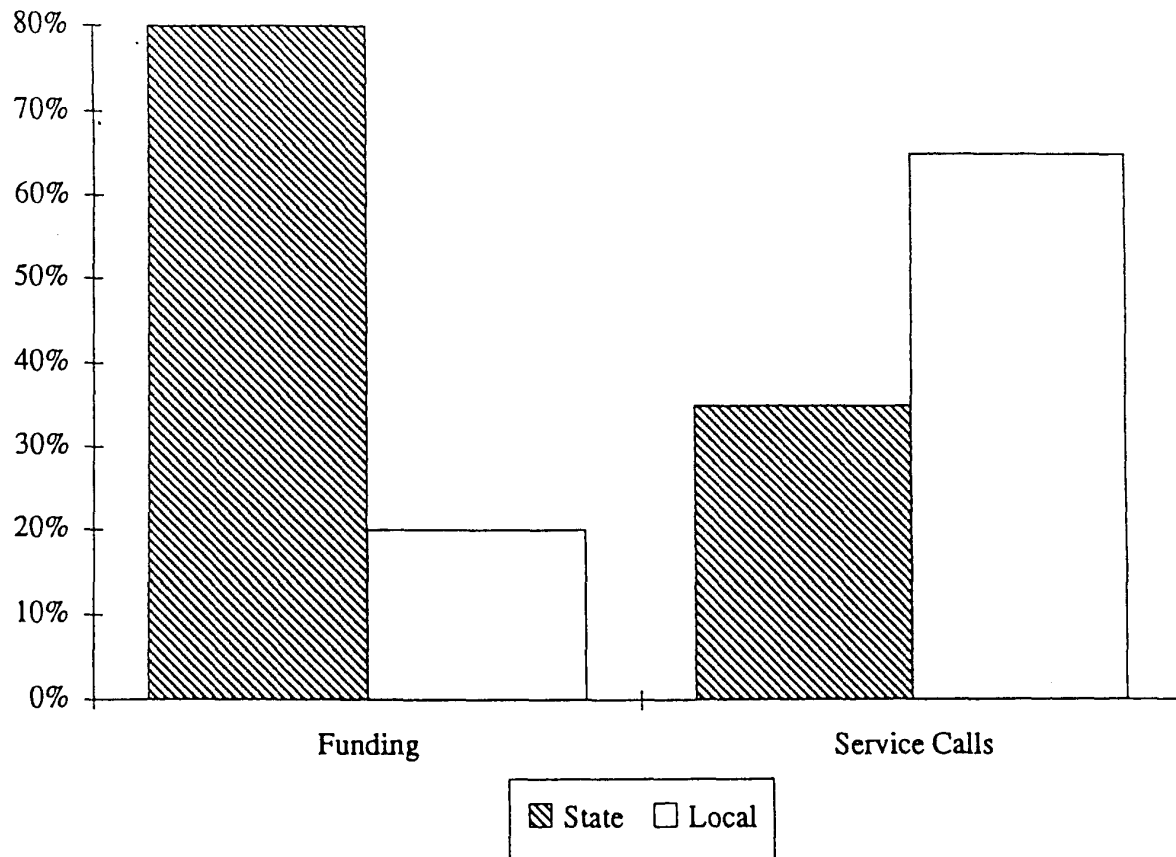
The budget for Butner Public Safety in fiscal year 1990-91 was \$1.734 million (certified) and in fiscal year 1991-92 it was \$1.846 million (recommended). Table 1 shows what portion of the Butner Public Safety budget was funded by the State General Fund and local funding.

TABLE 1
Butner Public Safety Budget Information

	<i>State General Fund Share</i>	<i>Locals Share</i>	<i>Total Budget</i>	<i>Local Share As % of Total Budget</i>
1990-91 (Certified)	\$1,384,162	\$350,349	\$1,734,511	20%
1991-92 (Recommended)	\$1,453,528	\$392,759	\$1,846,287	21%

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Exhibit 1
Comparison of State and Local Funding Shares with Source of Service
Calls
Butner Public Safety FY1990-91



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Butner Public Safety is staffed by 44 sworn Public Safety officers (these officers have responsibilities for both police and fire protection). The breakdown is as follows (see Table 1):

– Director	1
– Chief Fire Services	1
– Chief of Police Services	1
– Captains	3
– Investigators	1
– Tech Services Assistant	1
– Platoon Captains	4
– Master Officers	8
– Officers	20
– Telecommunications	4
<i>Total Sworn Personnel</i>	<i>44</i>
– Secretary	1

Findings

It appears the majority of the calls for service in Butner are from the citizens living outside the state facilities at Butner. For example, in calendar year 1989-90, 30% of the service calls were from the institutions and 70% of the service calls were from the domestic citizens of Butner. Table 2 documents the service calls and percentage of institutional versus domestic calls from fiscal year 1988-89 through 1990-91 (the last year of data available).

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TABLE 2
Butner Public Safety Service Calls

	<i>Institution</i>	<i>% Institution</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>% Domestic</i>
1988-89	3,561	34%	6,865	66%
1989-90	3,346	30%	7,758	70%
1990-91	4,193	35%	7,863	65%

The Butner Public Safety Budget for fiscal year 1990-91 was \$1,737,285 (authorized). During this year the citizens of Butner were assessed approximately \$350,349 or 20% of the total budget for the Butner Public Safety Division while generating 65% the service calls. Based on this data it appears that citizens throughout the state are subsidizing local public safety services for the citizens living in the Butner area.

Recommendations

There are several options that the State has in dealing with Butner Public Safety. One is to incorporate the Town of Butner and turn over public safety responsibilities to the town; another is to turn over the public safety function to the counties of Granville and Durham, who in turn could establish a public safety district; and finally, the State could choose to leave the public safety function as it currently exists. Because of the complicated service interaction among major State and federal facilities and local residents in the Butner Public Safety jurisdiction, it is recommended that the Governor conduct an in-depth evaluation of each of the alternatives. The evaluation, with recommendations, should be prepared for presentation to the General Assembly when it convenes in 1994. The study should address:

- unique needs of the State institutions
- needs of the local residents
- services that would be provided by an incorporated town of Butner, i.e., fire, police protection, water, sewer, etc.
- services that would be provided by a stand-alone public safety district
- impact of incorporating Butner or establishing a public safety district on other local governments
- current cost to local residents
- tax base
- other relevant matters associated with the alternatives

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Implications

The recommended study should include participation by Granville and Durham Counties, local residents, and federal and state institutions located at Butner.