



Jackson County Jail Advisory Committee
Jackson County Courthouse
201 West Platt Street
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Q. What is the current situation with the jail, and what's being done?

A. The current Jackson County Jail, built in 1971, rated for 11-beds, is a serious liability risk for the County. With numerous deficiencies including, but not limited to: not enough jail cells to house inmates; lack of classification system to separate the different inmates; no secure area for inmates to meet with Lawyers, Clergy, or Probation Officers; lack of air circulation; no sprinkler or smoke evacuation system. The County had a Jail and Justice System Assessment performed and hired the architect firm Shive-Hattery to conduct a Master Plan Study to determine the best way to address the deficiencies. The study's final recommendations were to construct a new Sheriff's Office and Jail which would include housing for 28 inmates expandable to 36 beds. The reasoning for this project is to meet current and future Jackson County law enforcement and detention center needs.

Q. How did you come up with the number of jail beds needed?

A. The County contacted Shive-Hattery, a regional leader in justice planning and design, to look at Jackson County's inmate history and trends and objectively determine the number of beds Jackson County will need for 20 and 30 years out. The Best Practices study took into account the following: county population growth projections, increases in specific demographics of populations and crime trends, average incarceration rates for the region, comparison to surrounding counties and consideration of historical average daily population (ADP) data. The final analysis determined that Jackson County would need 28 beds to accommodate our inmate housing needs 20-30 years in the future. This will allow for a minimum of 6 classifications. The State of Iowa Jail Inspector has to sign off on the plans for a new jail. The Jail Inspector stipulated that Jackson County must have a minimum of 6 classifications.

Q. Why should we build better quarters for inmates?

A. We are not building better quarters for the inmates. We are providing a safer work environment for our officers and liability protection for the County. The new jail will be made of concrete, block and steel. The facility being proposed meets the minimum requirements for jails in Iowa.

Q. Wasn't the current detention center facility constructed so that it could be expanded with a second floor?

A. In 1971 when the current facility was built it was constructed so that it could structurally support a second floor. There are different standards that a jail has to abide by that we did not have in 1971. For example in order to comply with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) we would need to install an elevator. The current facility does not have the capacity to add an elevator. To meet current ADA, Building Code, and Iowa Jail Standards, a number of upgrades would need to be made. The current facility has not had to comply with these updates due to being grandfathered in, however, any remodeling that occurs would require us to meet all of those standards which include but are not limited to: ADA compliance, fire suppression, smoke evacuation, air circulation, inmate classification, and safe and secure visitation. To enlarge and renovate the current facility is cost prohibitive.

Q. What happens if the old jail gets shut down?

A. We will have to house all our inmates in surrounding counties, assuming beds are available. If we do nothing, the current jail will be shut down and it will cost Jackson County approximately \$4.925 million more than the proposed new construction solution over a 30 year period. The prudent path is to invest time and resources now in order to be proactive and not reactive.

Q. How will the new Sheriff's Office/Jail benefit the Sheriff's Office staff and citizens of Jackson County?

- A. 1. Increased Public Safety: The new jail will be much more secure, reducing the danger of escapes and assaults on jail staff. Video Court will be utilized whenever feasible for court proceedings which will reduce the risk of a security breach by thus reducing exposure to staff and the general public.
2. Decreased Liability Risk: Protect the County from lawsuits for failing to provide minimum jail housing for prisoners.
3. Tax dollars will stay at home. The County will keep our tax dollars here at home instead of sending them to other counties.
4. Separation of detention center and administrative functions: Currently inmates going to court have to walk through the administrative side of the Sheriff's Office exposing administrative staff and the visiting public to the inmates.
5. Ability to house inmates from other counties. While the county is not going into the "jail business" we are proposing to build for our needs 30 years in the future. Until then, we may have extra beds that could be utilized to house adjacent county inmates, allowing us to pay off our bond sooner.

Q. Where will the new Sheriff's Office/Jail be located?

- A. The new facility is planned to be located on a 4.4 acre parcel of land on Carlisle Street, by Walmart on the South side of Maquoketa.

Q. Were other sites considered?

- A. Yes. The Jackson County Jail Advisory Committee had Shive-Hattery evaluate a number of options including: expansion/renovation at the current Sheriff's Office, using the Penrose property with or without the current facility, acquiring the property west of the Penrose property, and acquiring the properties south of the Jackson County Courthouse. Due to the site limitations and needed upgrades to the current facility, it was determined to be cost prohibitive to simply renovate the current facility and would not have allowed for a 28 bed facility. It was determined that using the Penrose property with or without the existing facility was not feasible due to the limited space available. The cost of acquiring the properties near the courthouse and the Penrose property along with the cost of demolition made these options much more expensive than purchasing a greenfield site.

Q. What will we do with the old Sheriff's Office and Jail?

- A. The County's Board of Supervisors understands more thought is needed about how the existing facility can be used once it is no longer needed for Sheriff's Office Administration or Jail functions. Ultimately, the decision rests with the Board of Supervisor's as to how to utilize the existing facility. The office space may be utilized as additional space for other county offices. The \$6.95 million bond does not include any renovation dollars for the existing Sheriff's Office/Jail

Q. When will the project begin?

- A. It will take approximately 2 years from successful passage of the bond referendum until the building can be occupied. The referendum will take place August 7, 2018, as a Jackson County-wide special election.

Q. Who is responsible for the Jail?

- A. The County is responsible for providing housing to its inmates. It is the duty of the Sheriff and the Jail Administrator's job to adhere to Iowa Jail Standards and ensure the safety and security of staff, inmates, and the community.

Q. Can we tour the Jail?

A. Yes. Individuals and groups can make an appointment to tour the Jackson County Jail by contacting the Jackson County Sheriff's Office at (563) 652-3312. Open house tours will take place on June 27, 2018 and July 23, 2018. Tours will start at 2PM and run every hour until the final tour at 7PM.

Q. Who is held in the Jail?

A. The majority of Inmates held in the Jackson County Jail are accused of a crime and awaiting trial or convicted of a crime and sentenced to less than one year.

Q. Who spends the most time in the Jackson County Jail?

A. The group of people who spend the most time in our county jail are not inmates who have committed crimes, but are Detention & Judiciary Staff who manage the inmate population every day: twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days each year. Their safety, security and working conditions are paramount.

Q. Why don't we use the lot that the county owns across from Sunshine Preschool and Daycare?

A. The JCJAC was informed that the cost of running utilities, (sewer & water) to this parcel of land would exceed \$400,000 due to the fact that the property sits on a bluff which is all rock. There was also concern with the Sheriff's Office/Jail being located across from an operating daycare center.

Q. Why don't we build at the County Farm, (Andrew Jackson Care)?

A. The Sheriff's Office looked into building/renovating the facility located on the property. According to the Engineers that assessed the property at the time, the building would have to be structurally torn down and rebuilt from the ground up. There is the possibility of taking over 2 acres of the current farm ground to build a facility, however, there would be added transportation costs due to the facility being that far away from the courthouse.

Q. Why don't we use the hospital building or land?

A. The JCJAC didn't consider the property as we were not sure whether the hospital was going to tear down and rebuild on that particular property or whether they were going to acquire land for the project. They decided to move forward with the land acquisition route, which in turn, would delay our project by 2-3 years from even getting started as they would have to build the new hospital and then relocate equipment and demolish the existing building. This would have prolonged our project longer than what the Iowa State Jail Inspector would allow.

Q. What is the relationship between the new hospital and the proposed Sheriff's office and jail facility?

A. The County Hospital is its own taxing entity with its own board. The Hospital Trustees are elected officials who govern the hospital. The Sheriff's office and jail will be a facility under the Jackson County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors have no say or control over the County Hospital. The hospital project is being funded by revenue bonds; therefore, property taxes will not be increased due to a hospital bond.