



November 15, 2018

Sheriff Russ Kettman  
Jackson County Sheriff's Office  
104 S. Niagara  
Maquoketa, Iowa 52060

Re: Jail

Dear Sheriff Kettman.

On February 15, 2018, the Iowa Department of Corrections conducted the annual inspection of the Jackson County Jail. After the annual jail inspection, Jackson County held a bond referendum, asking the voters to support a jail construction project. After the failure of the referendum, you suggested having the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association Jails Committee tour and provide feedback as to the condition of the jail. At the request of Jackson County, the committee toured the jail on October 3, 2018, and provided a letter of their findings dated October 30, 2018.

Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association and Iowa Department of Corrections each discussed:

- Visitation: Located in the booking room; safety and security of staff, prisoner, and public; security breach due to location of public area; clear view of a shower from the public side of visitation; audio and video equipment with viewing into the jail; jail documentation and correspondence to and from courts and attorneys.
- Admission and classification: Jackson County has extremely limited classification options.
- Exercise: The exercise area has razor wire at the top of a short chain length fence; is used as the entrance point for visitor; is extremely susceptible to contraband being introduced to the prisoners and jail. Jackson County has had escapes in the past, causing a safety and security concern to the public.
- Cleanliness and hygiene: Due to the age and condition of the building, disagreeable odors were detected due to leaky foundation, musty and moldy odors along with visible mold observed when the chase door was opened. The chase is located immediately between the cellblocks.

Other items discussed in the Iowa Department of Corrections inspection report includes:

- Inadequate water at all locations in the jail, including the sinks, stools, and showers.
- Inadequate lighting at tabletop height in each of the cellblocks.

Other issues discussed by the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies association include:

- Over all safety, security, and liability issues in the jail.
- Unable to be compliant with federal PREA standards beginning with intake through housing and classification.

The mission of the Iowa Department of Corrections is:  
**Creating Opportunities for Safer Communities**

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- Facility is not compliant with American Disability Act. The facility is not handicap accessible.
- Booking is small and dangerous when dealing with uncooperative prisoners.
- Sallyport is small, dangerous, and insecure.
- The cellblocks present numerous suicide potential tools and risks: including bars, grilles, and vents.
- Small, inadequate kitchen.
- Storage in the hallway between the cellblocks and kitchen. Lockers and storage cabinets limit the amount of space available.
- Laundry located at the end of a hallway is very congested.
- Prisoner library is located next to the laundry. Prisoners have access to the phone wires and electrical panels.
- Programming, if any available, is completed outside the secure area of the jail.
- Public entrance is located on the east side of the building, and does not provide any security barrier between staff and the public.
- Department of Labor requires breaks and rest periods for staff. This is not possible in most cases as there is only one staff member on at any given time.
- Jackson County has eleven beds. Jackson County is currently housing 20-22 prisoners in other facilities at a daily rate of \$60 per day, equaling approximately \$30,000 per month not including transportation cost, staff salary. Jackson County has approximately 40 mittimus outstanding due to the lack of bed space and the cost of housing in other counties. Jackson County does not house any females or juveniles on site.

The Iowa Department of Corrections inspection reports have addressed the same issues since 2014 and no other corrective action taken. The Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association has addressed several issues the Iowa Jail Standards do not, but are not any less important. The Iowa Department of Corrections concurs with the Iowa State Sheriff's and Deputies Association findings.

Jackson County needs to determine what would be the most advantageous actions to take to address these on-going issues. Please advise the Iowa Department of Correction, no later than December 31, 2018, what steps will be taken to address these concerns.

The Iowa Department of Corrections is here to be a resource for Jackson County.

Respectfully,

*Delbert G. Longley*

Chief Jail Inspector

Iowa Department of Corrections