

Court voted to hire an architect
w/ jail experience to help plan for
a medium sized facility

MAY 22 '13 PM 4:20

CC 5-28-13

REQUEST FOR AGENDA PLACEMENT FORM

Submission Deadline - Tuesday, 12:00 PM before Court Dates

SUBMITTED BY: Mike Powell **TODAY'S DATE:** 05/20/2013

DEPARTMENT: X Sheriff

SIGNATURE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD: X 

REQUESTED AGENDA DATE: X 05/28/2013

SPECIFIC AGENDA WORDING:

Discussion of jail expansion and remodel projections relating to ongoing maintenance requirements and populations trends.

PERSON(S) TO PRESENT ITEM:

Sheriff Alford

SUPPORT MATERIAL: (Must enclose supporting documentation)

TIME: 30 minutes **ACTION ITEM:** X

WORKSHOP: X

(Anticipated number of minutes needed to discuss item) **CONSENT:** _____

EXECUTIVE: _____

STAFF NOTICE:

COUNTY ATTORNEY: _____ **IT DEPARTMENT:** _____

AUDITOR: _____ **PURCHASING DEPARTMENT:** _____

PERSONNEL: _____ **PUBLIC WORKS:** _____

BUDGET COORDINATOR: _____ **OTHER:** _____

*****This Section to be Completed by County Judge's Office*****

ASSIGNED AGENDA DATE: _____

REQUEST RECEIVED BY COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE _____

COURT MEMBER APPROVAL _____ Date _____



JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BOB ALFORD
SHERIFF

Mike Powell, Chief Deputy/Admin
Lt. Brian Peterson, Jail Administrator

DATE: May 21, 2013

TO: Commissioner Court

FROM: Bob Alford, Sheriff

SUBJ: Jail Expansion

The Sheriff's is requesting consideration of jail expansion by the Commissioners Court. Many of the issues include:

- In January 2013 PREA went into effect (Prison Rape Elimination Act) – states that all 17 year old inmates will be housed away from sight and sound of adult offenders. This means that we need more bed space in order to accommodate the 17 year olds brought into the jail of offenses ranging from misdemeanor to felony offenses.
- There are 22 Segregation cells in Blue West this number is inadequate for the needs of a population of 871 inmates, which is a Jail Standard Issue. We have a plan in place to correct this issue. The kitchen is not adequate to store food products, prepare and serve close to 2400 meals per day, which is also a Jail Standards Issue.
- Jail Inspection of March 2013 – exit interview – Inspector Jacqueline Semmler, stated, “We can no longer band aid our facility, it’s to a point that something has to be done.” There are extensive repairs that need to be performed in Corrections I. The original carbon steel has deteriorated greatly causing integrity issues and needs replacing, (i.e. Showers, stalls, plumbing chase, etc.) Commissioner Don Beeson was present during this conversation. We will have photos and more information to present to the court.
- At times we have to turn away misdemeanor offenses due to classification of Jail population. Which is not allowing us to meet the needs of the county nor city arrestees, again these are part of the Jail Standards Issues, in that we regularly turn away certain classes of misdemeanor cases.



JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

BOB ALFORD
SHERIFF

Mike Powell, Chief Deputy/Admin
Lt. Brian Peterson, Jail Administrator

- Area Police Chiefs have approached the Sheriff about seeking solutions of overcrowding. Female cells many times are overcrowded. Judge Bosworth had to suspend 27 females from overnights for 30 days to reduce female population to meet jail standards. This does not meet the requirements of the courts and also sends a negative message to the offenders, who have been arrested, tried and convicted, when we basically say that the jail is full, so even though you've been through the court system, you're free to go back & continue committing the crimes that you were arrested for.
- The jail was built in 1989 with 312 beds and now in 2013 we have 871 beds. Our booking area is still the same size as when originally built. It takes longer to book in and release due to the size of the area. Our bonding office is inadequate for the increase of workload since 1989. A walk thru ordered by the courts should take about an hour to process and complete, it now takes 4 to 6 hours, due to our intake and release area which was built to handle 311 not 871.
- For jail standards we have to have 10% of our bed space available at all times. 87 beds are not able to be used.
- With the opening of the Chisholm Trail Pkwy in 2014, our county will do nothing but continue to grow in population and with the growth also comes the unwanted growth and increase in housing concerns and requirements for the jail.
- Should the court choose not to expand our holding capacity, then we are still going to be faced with remodeling/updating the jail and a probable loss of the ICE contract due to housing restraints. We cannot ship our inmates out in order to accommodate a contract.

Respectfully,

Bob L. Alford
Sheriff