



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Jared Hoy

Office of Detention Facilities

Date: June 23, 2025

Sheriff Ryan Waldschmidt
Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department
63 Western Ave
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

RE: 2025 Fond du Lac County Jail Inspection

Facility Name: Fond du Lac County Jail
Address: 63 Western Ave
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Facility Type and Applicable Wisconsin Administrative Code:

- Juvenile Detention Facility (Chapter DOC 346)
- Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (Chapter DOC 347)
- Huber Facility (Chapter DOC 348)
- Municipal Lockup Facility (Chapter DOC 349)
- Jail (Chapter DOC 350)

Date of Inspection: May 7th & 8th, 2025 **Inspected By:** Nancy Thelen, ODF Specialist

Inspection Process: The annual inspection of the facility was conducted pursuant to WI Statute 301.37(3). The inspection compared the facility and its operation to applicable state statutes and Department of Corrections administrative code. This inspection consisted of a tour of the facility to assess the safety, sanitation, adequacy, and fitness of the facility; dialogue with staff and inmates; and a review of facility records and documentation.

Approved Capacity Details

Maximum Rated Capacity	Population on the Day of Inspection	Is Facility Approved to Double Cell	Is Facility Approved to Hold Juveniles
335	296	Yes – 15 Cells	No

On the date of the inspection the total adult inmate population was 296. Of that total there were 29 inmates assigned to the GPS program and 9 contracted out for housing in Green Lake County

leaving an in-house population of 256.

As noted in Inspector Thelen's report above, on the date of the inspection there were 9 inmates housed in Green Lake County, however the overall jail population grew over the summer and into fall and for most of the year there were on average 20 inmates housed in Green Lake County. In 2025, it will cost approximately \$200,000 to house Fond du Lac County inmates in the Green Lake County Jail. The jail's peak population was 348 inmates in 2025, and as of December 29th, 2025, the jail population is at 318.

"Maximum Rated Capacity" is the total number of beds the facility is currently allowed. Jails are not supposed to operate above 85% of the maximum rated capacity, which is 285 for Fond du Lac County. This is called the "maximum operational capacity." This operational capacity is set so jail staff can adjust for fluctuations in male versus female population; different classifications of inmates; capacity to absorb new arrests/bookings (it is not unusual to experience 40 to 50+ new bookings in one weekend during the summer months); medical and mental health status monitoring; proper separation of inmates arrested for the same crime; proper separation of inmates who engage in fights with each other in dorms; and other variables in inmate populations.

Inspection Results

Operational Changes and Initiatives

This section highlights operational changes in policies, procedures, or infrastructure implemented by the FDL County Jail since the previous inspection.

Changes:

- ❖ Jail tours/meetings regarding future jail build are ongoing.
- ❖ Formed CERT Teams on each rotation and complete quarterly CERT training
 - CERT stands for Correctional Emergency Response Team which is comprised of correctional deputies with additional specialized training to respond to incidents like dorm fights, cell extractions, riots, hostage situations, and other critical incidents within the facility.
- ❖ Implemented virtual visitation on the tablets
 - This implementation significantly reduced the amount of time required to move inmates to and from their cell/dorm to a visitation booth on in-person visiting days, allowing correctional deputies to remain focused on jail operations and creating an overall safer environment. The tablets also allow inmates significantly more time to visit with loved ones throughout the week, as opposed to limited in-person visiting hours each week.
- ❖ All personal mail is now scanned in using a third-party company
 - This process was instituted to eliminate contraband entering the jail through mail. In particular, paper and ink used in inmate mail can be saturated with illegal substances and ingested by an inmate, causing overdoses and other medical emergencies. Inmates now receive a scanned copy of their mail, as opposed to the actual mail itself, to eliminate this issue and keep inmates safe while in custody.
- ❖ Received 3-year grant to grow the MAT program in jail
 - MAT stands for Medication for Addiction Treatment, a grant funded collaborative initiative between the jail and public health department to provide treatment and services to inmates struggling with addiction – particularly opioid related addiction.
- ❖ Created a new Correctional Deputy position to help run the MAT program
- ❖ New training center for all jail in-service training, which includes simulated cells, dayrooms, POSC room, and classroom space
 - POSC stands for Principles of Subject Control – This training involves de-escalation, defensive tactics, and legal use of force training for correctional deputies, and is conducted at the new training center at the Fond du Lac County Campus.
- ❖ Purchased new fingerprint machine for the adult jail
- ❖ Purchased new Pepper Ball launcher for the jail
- ❖ Completed jail study with the Ad Hoc committee and proceeding to the County Board level for a new jail build.
- ❖ Two Sergeants attended LPO training
 - LPO stands for Leadership in Police Organizations
- ❖ Designated two staff members to Gang related issues in the jail and attended Gang training

- ❖ Added more Radios so every officer is assigned their personal radio
- ❖ Six staff members attended Juvenile Co-Located training
 - This is specialized training for correctional deputies who work with adult and juvenile inmates at a facility that houses both.
- ❖ Added members to the Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team
- ❖ Jail now has a Liaison from Probation and Parole assigned to the Jail
 - Probation and Parole (P&P) agents visit their clients in jail frequently, and there is now a P&P agent stationed within the jail full time to serve as a liaison between P&P and the jail to handle the cases of inmates on probation or parole who have reoffended. This streamlines the process of moving them through the jail back to supervised release or revocation of their status and return to prison.
- ❖ Assigned specific staff to be booking officers to improve efficiency
- ❖ Requests slips are now digital for better tracking
 - Inmates now send requests digitally through their tablets rather than on paper which is more efficient and provides for better tracking.
- ❖ Law Library added to every inmate tablet
 - Prior to tablets, inmates had to request time in the law library and physically be moved from their dorm/cell to a room with computer access to statutes and other legal research material. Now they can access that information on their tablets from their dorm/cell, streamlining efficiency and allowing correctional deputies to remain focused on other jail operations.

Initiatives:

- Send five staff members to classification training and update the jail's Classification process
- Send more Supervisors to LPO training and leadership training
- Update the jail's Rounds Tracker currently using Guard 1 wands
- Continue working towards a new Jail Build
- Add two additional Court Officer Positions
 - These positions were requested as part of the budget process due to the high volume of inmates moved to and from jail and court. There are currently two dedicated full time court officers who are ultimately responsible for coordinating and moving approximately 4,500 inmates to and from in-person or Zoom court appearances each year.
- Continue recruitment for staff
 - There are currently four vacant correctional deputy positions and although efforts are ongoing to locate and recruit qualified applicants, hiring remains a challenge for a variety of reasons.
- Continue to grow the jail MAT program in introduce different medications to treat opioid disorders
- Add digital newspaper app to Tablet
- Be able to broadcast volunteer groups on the tablet so more inmates can be involved in programming
 - The original jail, nor any of the three expansions, prioritized programming space in the facility so we share the limited programming space among all the

groups that provide services here. We are looking at ways to coordinate recording and/or streaming of programs through tablets to expand opportunities for more inmates to participate.

Operations:

- Medical: Advanced Correctional provides contracted medical services at the facility 16 hours/day.
 - Most jails of similar size have 24/7 nursing coverage. With healthcare already one of the largest expenses in the jail, moving to a 24/7 coverage plan will only increase those healthcare expenses even further. However, 24/7 coverage would eliminate the need for correctional staff having administer medications to inmates at night, and could also reduce the number of inmates transported to the hospital to be seen by healthcare staff for issues that arise overnight.
- Mental Health: Advanced Correctional provides contracted onsite mental health services 40 hours per week. Fond du Lac County crisis is available for after-hours emergencies.
 - Mental health services will be increased from 40 hours to 56 hours per week in 2026, in an attempt to better address the mental health needs of the inmate population. This is still likely not enough hours to meet the demand, however the healthcare costs rise significantly each year and it has been difficult to find and maintain providers willing to provide these services in a jail environment.
- Food Service: Fond du Lac County Food service staff provide onsite meals along with labor from inmate kitchen workers.
 - Annual Outside Kitchen Inspection was completed **02/28/2025**
 - Menus were reviewed and approved by FDL County registered dietician on **03/31/2025**
- Fire Inspection was completed **04/23/2025**
- Training: Training has been completed/scheduled in the code required areas:
 - 350.19(2)(c) Fire Safety – SCBA & Equipment – **Spring 2025**
 - **SCBA stands for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus – correctional deputies are trained and certified to wear and use air packs in the event of a jail fire.**
 - 350.19(4) Fire Safety Evacuation – **Spring 2025**
 - 350.14(6) Healthcare – Annual training on Policies, Procedures, Medications and health screening– **Spring 2025**
 - 350.16(2) Control and administration of medications– **Spring 2025**
 - 350.17(11) High Risk Supervision – 2 hours training suicide prevention and identification of risk factors – **Spring 2025**

Inspection Comments

State Statute and Administrative Rule Violations:

Administrative Code DOC 350.06(6)(a) Dormitories (Classification): *Inmates may be housed in dormitories if the inmates are of the same security classification and properly segregated as required under s. 302.36, Stats.* Inspection revealed noncompliance through examples of occupants with differing classifications within the same dormitory in multiple dorms within the facility.

In 2006, just as the last jail expansion was opening, the state updated this section of code requiring a more thorough classification system for inmates and requiring appropriate housing within a jail to separate inmates based on their classification status. Unfortunately, the expansion that opened in 2006 was designed based on a “warehousing of inmates” concept rather than “housing by classification.” The 2006 build consisted of large open dorms, rather than smaller dorms with attached single cells that would have allowed for proper housing options based on classification.

As the overall inmate population transitioned from a combination of state inmates (predominately all with the same classification) and local-arrest inmates early on, to an all-local-arrest inmate population (with varying classifications), the ability to properly house based on classification has only gotten worse. With so many large open dorms in the current facility, the options to properly house based on this classification code are limited. If the large dorms were utilized to house only inmates of the same classification and in compliance with this code, the dorms would not be filled anywhere near their potential capacity and Fond du Lac County would have to house more inmates out of county.

In 2025, engineers were tasked with evaluating the large dorms completed in 2006 to determine if they could be reconstructed into smaller dorms with more single cells, but they found the structure itself was not built to support the weight/load created by additional walls being constructed. As previously shared with the County Board, this most recent expansion is the section of the jail that already has the most settling/movement of floors and walls. Even if the existing jail structure was sturdy enough to support the renovations, the jail would ultimately lose capacity/bed count due to the additional walls needed to build these smaller dorms and cells.

At various times throughout the years, the Sheriff’s Office has analyzed what it would take to bring the jail into compliance with this section of code. To be compliant with this code, it was determined that an additional 25 to 50 inmates, depending on population fluctuations that occur throughout the year, would have to be housed out of county to bring the inmate population down to code-compliant levels. This is in addition to the 20-25 inmates already housed out of county. This would come at a tremendous additional cost to the county, not just to house these additional inmates elsewhere, but also to transport inmates to the few other jails around the state that have a capacity to take on additional inmates from other counties. Out-of-county housing costs alone for the additional 25-50 inmates would add \$547,000 - \$1,095,000 annually, not accounting for transport costs, as the current rate of housing an inmate is \$60/day at most jails. Green Lake County is charging us a preferred rate of \$43/day, which is about 28% lower than the statewide average, however they do not have the capacity to take on additional inmates.

Continuing to house inmates in violation of this code (as has been done for many years) exposes Fond du Lac County to significant risk and liability. Washington County is currently facing a lawsuit for an inmate death that occurred because the inmate was housed in a mixed-classification section of their jail, and concern about that area of the jail not having proper camera coverage to identify the attack sooner. Many county board members have toured the Fond du Lac County jail and witnessed first-hand the severe lack of direct visibility from control stations to inmate cells and dorms, and the rows of television screens with hundreds of cameras correctional deputies have to monitor in real time from a control station to view inmates in their dorms/cells. Fond du Lac County could end up in the very same situation Washington County is experiencing now if a serious incident occurs in one of the many mixed-classification housing units. Below are two links to news articles regarding the Washington County homicide and subsequent lawsuit:

<https://www.fox6now.com/news/washington-county-jail-homicide-charges>

<https://www.tmj4.com/news/local-news/family-of-loved-one-killed-in-washington-co-jail-files-suit-against-sheriff-and-the-county>

Administrative Code DOC 350.18 (1) Security: *The jail shall have a system providing for well-being checks of inmates. Policies and procedures shall provide that all inmates are personally observed by jail security staff at staggered intervals not to exceed 60 minutes. A spot check of records reviewed indicate that not all of the well-being checks are walk through rounds within the unit to personally observe all occupants. While it appears that this is being completed during sleeping hours it is inconsistent during the daytime hours.*

Code requires a correctional deputy enter every housing unit a minimum of once every 60 minutes. Correctional deputies walk upwards of 10 miles per shift to keep up with the security checks and even then, they are not always able to complete the physical walk-through security checks as required. Visual checks looking through windows into the housing areas are relied on when physical security checks cannot be completed as instructed by code. Some reasons that create an inability to realistically comply with this section of code are:

- Inefficient linear design and layout of a jail consisting of four facilities interconnected by a maze of hallways.
- Unpredictable responsibilities correctional deputies are faced with:
 - Unscheduled inmate movement to and from court
 - Medical emergencies
 - Inmate fights
 - New bookings
 - Inmate movement for consultation with defense attorneys or other professional visits
 - Medical transports to hospitals, clinics and dentists

Recommendations:

- **Population/Classification** – On the date of the inspection inmates were of mixed classifications within housing units, a violation of the administrative rule which has been cited in this report. It remains clear based on the submitted monthly ADP (**Average Daily Population**) reports that the population level and lack of housing separation remains a concern. (Again, it is because of the large dorm style “warehousing of inmates” layout that the jail cannot effectively house inmates separated properly by classification.) In addition to beds needed, consideration into medical and mental health special needs housing should be reviewed. The number of inmates on special watch due to detoxification and self-harm have been continuing to increase causing a direct effect on housing needs. That population has been occupying the intake and receiving areas which was not the intended use for those short term holding and processing areas. (The current jail does not have an adequate number of medical and single cells to properly house the inmate population. Medical and single cells are used to house the most vulnerable of the inmate population (those who are suicidal, going through alcohol and/or drug withdrawals, or who have other serious medical issues requiring a camera-monitored single cell). Due to the lack of medical and single cells, inmates in these serious statuses are often housed in one of the receiving cells, creating a constant trickle-down challenge for proper placement of incoming bookings.
- A properly designed jail for an operation that sometimes sees 50+ new bookings in a weekend should have a minimum of 50 receiving cells; the Fond du Lac County jail currently has 12. A newly booked inmate is supposed to be held in a receiving cell for proper monitoring and stabilization for a minimum of 24 to 72 hours before being placed in general population. Due to the receiving cells being occupied by long-term inmates with serious medical or mental health conditions, new inmates who appear stable when booked in are immediately placed in large dorms without adherence to this waiting period.
- Additional housing needs are on the immediate radar to include out of county contracts as well as long term planning goals with the Jail Study Committee. *~Repeat from previous inspection periods*
- **Prisoner Transport to court-** *Jail Management continues to raise concerns regarding the current practice. Due to current logistics, is not considered safe with respect to the public, officer, inmate, Judge and Judicial Staff. Inmates are walked through the courthouse and are brought through public hallways and Judge & Court Staff areas in order to attend court hearings. There are several times when multiple inmates need to be brought at the same time increasing the safety risk in unsecure areas. This practice should be reviewed and factored into consideration should there be future plans to reorganize any county space needs. ~Repeat from previous inspection periods*

The current connection between the jail and courthouse is extremely inefficient and unsafe for a variety of reasons. For any county board members who would like to experience this trek first hand, please reach out to schedule a personal tour/walk of the route so you can experience what a correctional deputy and an inmate go through for every transport.

Additionally, courtroom layout and security concerns documented by all five current sitting judges in a memo to the county board can be viewed. Below is a detailed description of the route and security risks when transporting inmates to and from jail. Inmates who have court are summonsed to a staging area where handcuffs, a belt, shackles, and sometimes additional security devices to prevent flight/escape are applied. From there they are escorted to the left, down a ramp, through the booking area, into the booking sallyport entrance, and on to the elevator. The elevator takes them to the second level where they exit to the right, turn left down a long hallway, turn left through double security doors that have to be manually held open by a correctional deputy, up a ramp past the secure detention center entrance, left down a hallway corridor, and then a right turn through a single door that has to be manually held open. The inmate is now out of the jail and into unsecure courthouse corridors. From here, the inmate proceeds down a hall, to the left, down another hall past large glass windows overlooking the rear/west parking lot, to the right through another door that has to be manually held open, down a hall, and finally a left turn to proceed down a long narrow hallway behind the courtrooms. This same narrow hallway is also used by judges and their staff who are moving between their chambers and courtrooms. The four smaller courtrooms are adjacent to this long hallway, and if the inmate is appearing in the one larger courtroom, they have to be escorted the full length of this long hallway to the northernmost court room. This single larger courtroom is the only one of adequate size and structure to hold jury trials. In other words, the courtroom where jury trials for the most serious and violent offenses is the furthest courtroom from the jail. If the inmate is appearing in family court, the correctional deputy escorts them through an empty court room (if they can find one), across the main public hallway, and into the family court commissioner's courtroom. When the hearing is complete, the reverse occurs to return the inmate to jail. Recall that the inmate is in a minimum of handcuffs, belt and shackles (and sometimes additional escape-prevention devices) for this entire route.

The jail physically moves upwards of 3,000 inmates in person to court each year, and holds an additional 1,600 court hearings virtually via Zoom from within a makeshift courtroom in the jail. When moving inmates to and from court, the escort ratio should be two correctional deputies to one inmate. With only two court officers, the reality is, the escort ratio is routinely 1:1 and oftentimes the jail escorts up to five inmates at a time with two correctional deputies in order to keep up with the court workload. This requires pulling correctional deputies from the jail which is one of the reasons physical checks every 60 minutes are not completed. It should also be noted that when an inmate becomes combative in court, correctional deputies have to move the inmate back through this maze of long hallways, many turns, and many manually operated doors to return them to the secure jail facility. This often requires staff to leave security posts from throughout the jail to respond to the combative inmate in the courthouse, as well as law enforcement personnel from the sheriff's office to assist or backfill posts where needed until the situation is stabilized. This jail-to-court connection was built in 1994 when there were fewer inmates overall, and far fewer violent inmates in our custody. Modern jail and court facilities connect a single point of entry to a courtroom directly from a secure jail court holding area, and the inmate is at all times literally just a few steps away from the secure jail area if they become violent or quickly need to be returned to the jail for some other reason.

- **Operational Review/Staffing** – Continued review of overall operations should be reviewed to include staffing and support services to ensure facility needs are being met.

As noted above, the volume of court transports has significantly increased requiring additional staffing to accommodate. This practice affects corrections operations by causing shortages when those staff are removed from their assigned post to move inmates to court or perform other duties.

With only two correctional deputies assigned full time to the courts, and approximately 4,500 virtual and in-person court appearances each year, these two positions cannot keep up with the court workload. To fill the gaps, other correctional deputies, supervisors, and even members of jail administration, sheriff's office administration, and patrol deputies are constantly pulled from their post or position to escort inmates to court. When this happens, other responsibilities of their post or position are put on hold until they return from court.

- **Medical and Mental Health** - Review of current services should continue to be completed to ensure facility needs are being met. On the date of the inspection the Health Appraisals were caught up, however it was due to increased hours specific to the volume that needed to be completed. The increase in special needs along with suicide watch and withdrawals has continued to be demanding on overall services needed. There continues to be an increase in sick call requests along with dental needs this reporting period. These increases can cause a significant strain on medical, security staff and the population that need services. Similar facilities of this size and population have transitioned to 24/7 medical coverage in order to meet their needs.
- **Security** – A review of the overall facility security practices in place to include supporting documentation within the facility should be completed. The camera system is outdated and failing requiring repairs. Timeliness of wellness checks have been a concern and example of the effect on operations when staff are frequently pulled from their post assignment to cover other needs to include transporting inmates to court. Supervisors role is another example of operational impact as they are frequently filling staff positions not allowing timeliness of supervisory tasks to be completed ~*Wellness checks were cited as a violation within this report.*

The jail camera system is over 20 years old, yet jail staff rely on this system to view all inmates in real-time because the jail was not designed for direct inmates viewing from the control stations. Replacing these systems is extremely costly, so the jail is trying to limp them by until the new facility is constructed. However, when a component or portion of one of these systems fail, it can take days or weeks to find replacement parts, including sourcing from eBay and other similar websites to get by. This system and all its components will be eliminated when the new facility is constructed, so the jail is being as fiscally responsible as possible to extend system life and not waste tax payer dollars.

Physical Plant Issues

The areas that have been ongoing throughout the past several inspection periods as it relates to physical plant issues and maintenance needs have been outlined in the following sections. While they are all concerning, I am compelled to include another section to further outline and highlight some of the high concerns due to the increasing risk they pose to the facility and its potential decline in functional ability and use.

Should issues continue to show within the facility that are not able to be repaired, I will need to reevaluate the occupancy approval for those areas. Jail Administration will notify me when areas within the facility are not functioning so they can be assessed for use at that time.

HIGH CONCERN AREAS:

WALL CRACKS: Measurement gauges- Recommendation was made on the date of the inspection to talk to maintenance about placing measurement gauges on the existing wall cracks to allow for routine monitoring. The monitoring should include documentation and sharing of those findings with Jail Administration. There are ongoing wall cracks that have been identified as noted in the list below. Significantly they include 2 in the Section K Stairwell where you can see through to the outside. You may also want to consider consulting with a structural engineer to ensure the stability and safety of those walls and flooring that are in question with cracking and movement.

Aside from visual cracks in walls and floors, the building settling and shifting creates security risks as well. For example, there are several cell and dorm doors that have pinched shut when a wall settles and places pressure on the door frame, pinching the door shut. Maintenance is then called in to remove the door and grind the top of the door down so it fits back into the frame again. Sometimes doors slowly start to bind and we have time to alert maintenance to come grind the door down before it cannot be opened, and other times a more significant shift pinches a door completely shut before we identify the problem and the situation becomes an emergency because the door to inmate housing areas cannot be opened until maintenance arrives to remove it. Said more clearly, inmates and correctional staff alike can be trapped inside a cell or dorm, and correctional staff could be unable to respond to medical calls, fights, or other emergencies occurring until maintenance arrives to remove the door.

WATER LEAKS: There is an ongoing issue with water leaking in the Section K Stairwell, Laundry Room, Basement area under Section K and the other jail sections.

Maintenance is in the jail to deal with leaking sewage pipes and water lines multiple times a week. This year alone full sections of cast iron sewer pipes completely gave away and fell out of the ceiling in various sections throughout the jail. Water pipes have worn thin from the constant water flow and develop pin-hole leaks that eventually turn into spraying leaks sometimes before they are identified. Toilet plungers are dispersed in inmate housing areas throughout the jail because toilets are constantly clogging, and maintenance is constantly running sewer augers/snakes to open clogged or collapsing sewage pipes. Most of these water and sewer lines are in difficult or impossible to access locations, often buried in solid concrete walls and floors or located in narrow secure corridors to prevent inmate access. Additionally, mold grows where moisture is present, and sewer gas smell permeates areas of the jail where the sewer leak is inaccessible or cannot be identified. Most of these issues cannot be resolved without moving inmates out and shutting down portions of the jail, which then triggers the requirement that the repair/renovation becomes significant enough that it requires the entire facility be brought up to modern day

building codes and DOC codes. If this were to occur, the county would be spending tens or hundreds of millions of dollars in renovation and repairs and ending up with a smaller capacity jail at the end of the renovation, because the jail would be required to meet current day square foot per inmate space regulations which are much larger than what currently exists in the jail.

CRACKED PIPES: Huber section had a cracked pipe causing sewage odor throughout the jail. This was repaired, however indicative of the need to assess viability of the facility piping system.

LOCKING MECHANISMS: Locks in many areas of the facility are at the end of life for usage and are no longer able to get parts to fix. As these mechanisms fail they are in need of complete replacement which may significantly impact operating budget for both repair cost and housing area use restrictions.

Like the camera system, the door control system is also over 20 years old, and some door lock components are 70 years old. Because replacing these systems is extremely costly the jail has worked with maintenance to limp them by until the new facility is constructed. However, when a component or portion of one of these systems fail, it can take days or weeks to find replacement parts. When a door lock fails, leaving the door unable to lock (particularly the heavily used main entry/exit exterior doors), a correctional deputy is required to be posted at that unsecure door for days at a time until parts arrive to repair the failed lock. Maintenance has had to custom-build door lock components because the companies that built the various door locks are no longer in business or no longer carry parts for old lock systems.

INTERCOMS: Intercoms in many areas of the facility are at the end of life for usage. Parts are obsolete and there has been a significant lag time in the ability to retain them for the repairs. This is a life safety issue for inmates who may need assistance.

The jail intercom systems are all over 20 years old, and some of the existing intercom infrastructure is decades older than that. Many of the single cells and medical cells do not have any intercom system installed at all, yet they house the highest-risk and most vulnerable inmates. Additionally, none of these cells have direct line of sight to control stations and correctional deputies can only monitor them remotely through cameras, as well as the 15 or 30-minute visual in-person security checks. As with all infrastructure systems, the jail is trying to limp the intercom system on until the new facility is complete, because replacing these systems is extremely costly. However, when a component or portion of one of these systems fail, it can take days or weeks to find replacement parts. Full sections of the jail go without intercoms for weeks at a time as maintenance waits for replacement parts, requiring inmates to pound on windows and doors to get the attention of correctional deputies if they need something between security rounds.

DOORS: Door functionality has been a significant issue in G & K Block due to walls and floors settling and compressing door frames, pinching some of them shut. When those doors are not functioning, those areas of housing are not be able to be utilized for inmate housing until repairs have been completed due to the life safety issue it presents.

Physical Plant Issues - Repeated areas as noted in prior inspection periods

- ❖ **Maintenance / Physical Plant / Operations** – The areas listed below have been previously identified and are ongoing as needing review for current and future operational needs along with staffing considerations. While maintenance’s response to issues has been as immediate as possible, there are areas that will continue to falter based on the age and use of the physical plant. It is reported that they do the best that they can and work well with the staff to get areas addressed.
 - **Plumbing** – On the date of the inspection there were continued concerns with pipes leaking. This has been identified as a continual struggle and consistent issue within the facility due to the age of the system in place. It has affected housing areas shutting down cells that cannot be used when issues arise. Toilets – It is reported that the use of plungers has steadily increased as the plumbing issues continue to rise. Cracked pipes and water leaking is an ongoing concern in many areas of the facility
 - **Showers** – There has been a continual mold issue within the shower areas requiring ongoing maintenance.
 - Over the years companies have come in to coat and recoat the cement block walls in these shower areas to minimize water protrusion into the cement block and reduce mold growth, however the coatings require removal and replacement on specified intervals. This is a multi-day process and requires the housing unit be shut down for the duration of the work, and with no other space to move inmates, it would require inmates being transported and housed in other facilities during the work. The work itself is costly, as is the transportation and housing out of county. Showers are treated with an anti-mold chemical as well as a special UV sterilization light system to minimize mold growth in these areas that remain wet nearly 24/7 due to heavy use.
 - **Inmate Phone System** – There has been an ongoing issue with connectivity. This is under review to see if there are internal wiring issues. This can be costly to inmates as they pay for connection and it is routinely being cut off requiring additional calls.
 - Inmate phones were out of service in two of the four sections of the jail on Christmas afternoon – a day when many inmates were attempting to make phone calls. This is an ongoing issue driven primarily by old phone infrastructure and wiring throughout the jail.
 - **HVAC** – It is noted that the system in place is from the original build. While there have been subsequent additions in 1980 and 2006, the facility has difficulty maintaining consistent temperatures throughout.
 - Inspector Thelen references the 1980 and 2006 additions here, but it

- When a medical emergency occurs in the jail, staff overrides the locks on three exterior doors to the facility (sallyport entrance and two additional entrance doors that provide an escape barrier to the outside) to move medical personnel into and out of the jail as quickly as possible. When this is done, correctional deputies have to scramble to lock any unsecure inmate (those in professional visits, being booked into jail, swamper/inmate workers, etc.) down to reduce the chances of an escape attempt with the doors in override open status. A new facility will have a secure sallyport that an ambulance can drive into so a fully secure jail can be maintained during medical emergencies. An ambulance is dispatched to the jail for medical emergencies approximately 115 times per year.
 - ❖ **Booking Space**- The current space is insufficient and is not meeting operational needs. Lack of overall space needed to properly accommodate body scanner and multiple booking needs. The reported number of bookings has been on the rise making this space unable to accommodate the volume of inmate flow. It was reported there have been as many as 52 bookings on a weekend which this space is unable to accommodate with best correctional practice security measures. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
 - When the booking section of the jail was built in the 1980s, it was built to accommodate up to two bookings at a time and was not built to accommodate contraband detection devices like walk through metal detectors and body scanners. Today, approximately 3,400 bookings are completed each year, and it is not uncommon for several squad cars (sometimes up to four or five) to be waiting in line outside for a booking station to open up. A walk-through metal detector and body scanner that every inmate is processed through in an attempt to identify contraband on or inside their body during booking are additional devices which weren't even available when the jail booking section was originally built.
 - ❖ **Receiving Cells** – The current number of cells is insufficient and is not meeting operational needs. The number of inmates who have special needs housing requirements along with those on special watch due to detoxification and self-harm have been occupying the intake and receiving areas which was not the intended use for those short term holding and processing areas. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
 - ❖ **Special Needs Cells** – The current number of cells is insufficient and is not meeting operational needs. The number of inmates who have special needs housing requirements along with those on special watch due to detoxification and self-harm have been continuing to increase causing a direct effect on housing needs. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
 - ❖ **Public Fingerprint and DNA Collection** – There is currently no space allotted to perform this function outside of the booking area of the facility. This creates safety and
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security issues bringing the public into the secure perimeter of the main jail. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.

- The fingerprint machine and mug shot area are located in the secure portion of the jail booking area, requiring those not in our physical custody to be screened and brought into the secure facility for court-ordered fingerprints and mugshots. A new jail will be designed so that those not in custody who are required to report to jail to submit fingerprints and mugshots can do so in a non-secure area of our jail, and not intermixed with the inmate population.
- ❖ **Court Transport** – As referenced above, Administration has expressed concerns in this area citing there is currently no secured way to safely transport inmates to court without breaching public areas, Judge and court staff areas creating a security concern. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
- ❖ **Classification** – As referenced above, Due to the larger configuration of housing units it is difficult to meet statutory requirements of Classification. Housing trends reflecting best correctional practice have gone to smaller populated units. This has been noted as a violation in this reporting period. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
- ❖ **Physical Layout** – Due to the facility layout with multiple additions it creates staff inefficiencies within the overall operation. It requires additional time to complete all routine tasks that are performed. The extended maze – like layout of areas increase both response times and staff mobility due to the linear design. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
- ❖ **ADA Housing**– It is difficult to house inmates who are physically impaired due to limited housing specific to ADA needs. Several narrow hallways and door openings that cannot accommodate wheelchair access. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.
 - Today's inmate population requires much more intensive medical care than ever before. It is not uncommon to have inmates with IV drips and machines, CPAP machines, prosthetics, walkers, canes, wheelchairs, and other mobility-limiting devices, but the jail does not have medical cells built to conform to ADA standards or accommodate these medical and mobility devices. When nursing staff is not present or unavailable, correctional deputies are left to assist in lifting these inmates in and out of bed, on or off a toilet, and into and out of a shower. These procedures are time consuming and remove correctional deputies from fulfilling other responsibilities that go into operating a safe jail.
- ❖ **Intercoms**- There is a lack of intercoms throughout the facility in housing and additional areas that need a mechanism to alert staff. Significant issue to incorporate into future planning.

❖ **Transition Team** – As the Jail Study and planning continues to move forward, understanding what a transition team is, how they develop and the timeline for when they are incorporated is important. A jail transition team is a group of individuals comprised of correctional staff who responsible for managing the process for transitioning and moving inmates from a current jail facility to another facility. This team plays a vital role in ensuring a smooth and safe transition which involves planning, policy development, training and coordination of services. The team is involved in various aspects of the transition, including facility design, on site construction assignment and involvement in construction meetings. Utilizing a team of correctional staff who are familiar with operations and who understand the logistics and components of essential functions is key. I am happy to assist with this process and provide guidance and education to the overarching scope of what this role entails.

I would like to again express my ongoing appreciation that I have for the work that the Sheriff's Department and the Jail Study Committee have been doing to try and resolve the physical plant issues that are listed in this report. This is not an easy undertaking and I am very appreciative of the partnership we have developed over the years, affording us the ability to find the best solution to address all of the areas of concern.

It is important that forward movement is ongoing toward solutions for resolving these physical plant issues. As we move forward I am confident that we will be able address the issues at hand and develop a viable solution to meet the current and future needs of the corrections division and jail facility.

I would like to thank Captain Jim Borgen, Lt. Tyler Broderick and your staff for their cooperation during this inspection process. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy Thelen".

Nancy Thelen, Inspector
Office of Detention Facilities

Cc: Captain Jim Borgen, Jail Administrator
Greg Bucholtz, ODF Director
File