
Jail & Law Enforcement Center

Nov 3, 2021

Jail/Law Enforcement Center Facility Committee

■ Voting members

- Steven Waller, Chair
- Meghan McCauley
- Robert Fuller
- John Walker
- Gregory Huckabee
- Nate Welch
- Marty Gilbertson

■ Non-voting members

- Howard Willson
- Richard Holland
- Sheriff Andy Howe
- Police Chief Matt Betzen
- Clay County Auditor Carri Crum

Charge Issued June 2021

- Identify a site for a Jail & Law Enforcement Center to serve Clay County and Vermillion
 - Location must be in Vermillion
 - Adequately sized to serve primary missions for 50+ years
 - Should provide for reasonable and necessary expansion

Jail and Law Enforcement Center are Separate But Related Operations

- Jail and jail support are higher security spaces
 - Clay County Sheriff is responsible for oversight of the operations of the Jail

Jail Background Information

- Inmate populations declined 7% nationally, but increased in SD by 8% between 2012 and 2017 (Bureau of Justice Statistics Prisoners Series (1999-2017))
- Courts supporting Clay County have been aggressive in keeping inmate numbers as low as safely possible for some time, but inmate numbers are gradually increasing

Clay County Jail Statistics

- For 2019, average daily population (ADP) was 21.65 inmates
- For 2020, ADP was 17.42
- For 2021 (to date), ADP is 16.5
 - Lowest daily population during 2021 was 10
 - Highest daily population during 2021 was 27

Recommendation: 44 Person Occupancy Jail

- Size recommended by TLM Correctional Consultants in Klein-McCarthy Report and reaffirmed by current professional design team
 - TLM predicted ADP of 24.9 in 2035 (ten years in new Jail)

Building Too Small Is Expensive!

- Jail expansion would be at predictably higher construction costs and interest rates than now
 - Additional construction bonds would interfere with County's ability to deal with other large expenditure priorities
- Would trigger unpredictable costs of housing inmates at regional jails
 - 'Occasional' inmate housing at regional jails can be difficult for County budgeting

Area Jails Are Larger

- Union County (pop 16,811) has a 52-inmate capacity jail
- Yankton County (pop 23,310) has a 120-inmate capacity jail
- Clay County (pop 14,967) current jail had a 20-inmate capacity
 - Jail was closed as it was too far out of compliance with reasonable standards for housing inmates
 - Housing inmates in regional jails was common at the time of closure

Important Facts

- There are currently 27 inmate classifications and many require housing separation
- Jails are considered 'crowded' at 80% occupancy
- Cost of housing inmates in regional jails is expensive
 - ~\$60 per day in Union County
 - ~\$80 per day in Yankton County
 - ~\$100 per day in Minnehaha County

The Current Reality

- \$175,000+ spent on housing inmates in regional jails since June, much more is projected for 2022
 - Most have been housed in Union County
 - Recent housing in Yankton necessary as housing in Union County was not available based on inmate classification
- There is NO assurance now or in the future that housing of Clay County inmates will be possible or reasonably priced in any particular jail facility

Jails Require Dedicated Support Areas

- Jail and Jail Support are secure spaces where access to, from, and within are controlled
- Spaces include inmate intake, work release inmate management, laundry, food service, medical care, visitation rooms (video and in person), court support (video hearings), recreation, and jail administration.

Law Enforcement Center

- Clay County Sheriff's Department
- City of Vermillion's Police Department
 - Spaces include offices, locker rooms, training and fitness areas, evidence room, armory, and others (conference, fingerprint processing, interrogation and interview, etc.)
 - Most areas are shared between the two operations
- Emergency Communications (911 center)

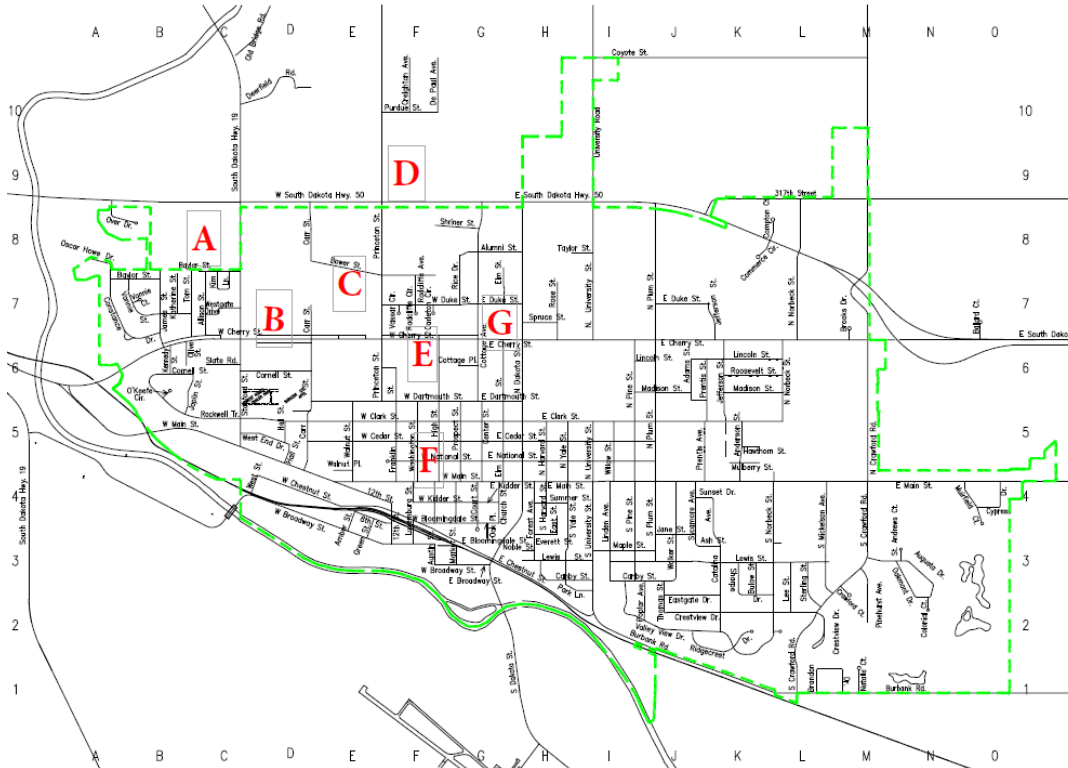
Costs Are Still Unknown

- Facility will fit on all sites being actively considered, some sites will require some rearrangement of spaces
- Estimated cost of construction is still being determined
- Sites being considered vary in projected acquisition and preparation costs

Site Considerations

- Expected acquisition costs
- Expected preparation costs (legal requirements, utilities and services, drainage, etc.)
- Public access and visibility
- Sheriff/Police Considerations (response times, inmate transportation to court)
- Potential for future site expansion
 - Excess property acquired may be sold to other purposes, perhaps with the cooperation of the VCDC
- Site specific issues and concerns

Seven Representative Sites



- A. West of Polaris
- B. South of Polaris, Cherry Street & Hwy 19
- C. Bower St. (Next to Navigant Plasma Center)
- D. North of Walmart (across Hwy 50)
- E. Fairgrounds
- F. North of Courthouse
- G. Across from Ace Hardware

A. West of Polaris

- Currently not available for purchase
 - Large property size may require purchase of more land than needed
- Lacks 'in town' location
 - May have relatively longer response times to Vermillion calls
- Site preparation costs are unknown, requires annexation by City
- Residential area located south

B. South of Polaris, Cherry St and Hwy 19

- More land than necessary
- Good potential access to Cherry St and Hwy 19
- Good public visibility
- No adjacent residential areas

C. Bower St (Next to Navigant Plasma Center)

- Considered unlikely to be available
- Poor public location awareness and visibility
- Access to Cherry St and Hwy 19 is indirect

D. North of Walmart (across Hwy 50)

- Currently available but with more land than needed
- Requires crossing Hwy 50
 - Public concern and slower response concern
- Requires annexation and essential utilities to be provided
 - Uncertain site development requirements (retention ponds, etc.)

E. Fairgrounds

- Currently owned by City
 - Impact to Vermillion's Parks and Rec program would have to be carefully considered
- Requires relocation of Fairgrounds to new site and loss of one or more ball diamonds
- Provides access to Cherry St
- Good public visibility

F. North of Courthouse

- Requires closure of National Street and acquisition of at least three houses north of National
 - Surrounded by residential area on three sides
 - Expansion would require additional acquisition of residential properties
- Established location of Public Safety Center
- Access to Cherry St and Hwy 19 are indirect
- Fewer inmate transportation issues and faster Courthouse response times

G. Cottage Street (Across from Ace Hardware, former trailer court)

- Acquisition of additional property involving multiple landowners along Cherry St needed
- Residential area immediately north of site
- Central location with good visibility
- Close proximity to Cherry St and Dakota St
- Limited property for future expansion