

**Delta Sheriff Office and
Correctional Facility Project
20 Most Common Questions**

For November 8, 2016 Bond Proposal

Questions Index

Question	Slide #	Question	Slide #
How much will the millage cost the average Delta County resident annually?	4	Are project cost breakdowns available?	15
What if the final project cost is more or less than \$17.9 million?	5	Why does the capacity need to double?	16
Can the millage rate change?	6	Won't an off-site jail significantly increase transportation cost?	17
Why is this plan \$2 million cheaper than the May plan?	7	Why is the Sheriff's Office part of the project?	18
Does the county make money on housing inmates?	8	Why not use a regional jail concept?	20
Does Delta sell beds to other counties?	9	Why don't they send inmates to other county jails instead?	21
Why can't the current jail be renovated/expanded?	11	Will the inmates get improved accommodations?	22
Why build the new facility at the Service Center?	12	Why don't they send more people to prison instead of jail?	23
What company will build the new facility?	13	Why don't they stop putting people in jail for marijuana?	24
Would the construction work be done locally?	14	What about counseling/programming?	25

Financial Q and A

1: How much will the millage cost the average Delta County resident annually?

0.85 mils = \$2.81/month or \$33.82/year

Taxable value is $\frac{1}{2}$ (or less) of the assessed true cash value of your house. To calculate your projected annual cost, multiply your taxable value by .00085. For every \$10,000 in taxable value, the millage would cost \$8.50 annually.

2: What if the final project cost is more or less than \$17.9 million?

If it's more, the County pays the difference. If it's less, the cost to taxpayers is reduced

The County cannot use millage funds for anything other than the project costs. If the project cost comes in at less than \$17.9 million, then the millage will only cover the reduced amount. If costs exceed \$17.9 million, the county must cover the overrun from other sources.

3: Can the millage rate change?

Yes, but history shows it is significantly more likely to go down than up.

The annual millage levy is automatically set to generate the debt payment. The proposal is conservatively built on zero taxable value change over 30 years. Historically, inflation has increased taxable value, which would automatically decrease the millage levy.

4: Why is this plan \$2 million cheaper than the May plan?

Reduced capacity from 185 to 160; Slight increase in county financial risk

The new plan calls for a jail capacity increase from 85 to 160. Additionally, there is an increased chance that the costs will be slightly above \$17.9 million, which the county would cover out of fund balance.

5: Does the county make money on housing inmates?

No. Jail systems are operated at heavy losses and have no similarity to “for profit” prisons in the news.

There is no profit in county jail systems. The county spends \$1.9 million currently and receives almost no revenue.

6: Does Delta sell beds to other counties?

No.

Only the Hannahville Indian Community uses the jail for overnight stays before typically being transported to Menominee, and it has recently averaged less than one bed per night.

Construction/Design Q&A

7: Why can't the current jail be renovated/expanded?

From previous studies, the cost to expand/renovate the current facility to code would be more expensive.

Aside from half of the needed cell capacity, the current facility has inadequate kitchen, laundry, booking, and office space on top of poor overall security. The facility also has significant deterioration and water level problems due to its location. A total structural overhaul would be necessary.

8: Why build the new facility at the Service Center?

Can't build at current site; no feasible site nearby; savings from owning Service Center

To demolish the current jail and build in its place, Delta County would need to pay to house all inmates elsewhere for 12-18 months. Building at the Service Center saves a projected \$2 million because existing office space will be renovated and used. There are no acquisition costs.

9: What company will build the new facility?

Project to be awarded through a competitive bid process, managed by the Delta County Board.

Cost, timeline, experience, and utilization of local labor are factors that the Board of Commissioners will use to determine which company is awarded management of the project.

10: Would the construction work be done locally?

Most Likely: Architectural and management to be national; Skilled labor to be local

Based on the county's preliminary design studies and national comparables, localities typically allow a national jail design/management company manage the project. However, all architectural/management companies that have contacted the County to date sub-contract nearly all labor to local companies on their projects. This would be requested through the request for proposals process.

11: Are project cost breakdowns available?

Yes, an example construction proposal is available on the county's website.

80-85 percent of the project cost is projected to be used for construction, labor, demolition, and contingencies. The remaining 15-20 percent would include architectural design, construction management, financing, and other miscellaneous costs.

12: Why does the capacity need to double?

Delta County is woefully under capacity at 85 currently. 160 puts Delta in line with other similar communities.

160 inmates represent less than half of one percent of the County's population. (1 inmate for every 160 people). Delta's most comparable U.P county is Chippewa, which has a jail capacity of 177.

13: Won't an off-site jail significantly increase transportation cost?

No, the only increase will be the 7-10 minute drive time.

When Corrections Officers bring someone to Court, they stay with them. Rather than walking someone over and staying for an hour court date, they will now drive them over and then stay for the hour court date.

14: Why is the Sheriff's Office part of the project?

Limited changes required for Sheriff Office to use space in Service Center.

There are several operational advantages to have the Sheriff's Office/Road Patrol located at the same site as the Correctional Facility. The Service Center has significant office space available that will need only limited renovations.

General/Other Q&A

15: Why not use a regional jail concept?

Transportation costs and lack of financial feasibility and/or interest from other counties.

The closest county seats are 53, 54, and 55 miles away. Even the most practical tri-county locations would include 25-30 miles one-way for each county, which would entail many new Officers for transport. Additionally, securing multiple county millages at once is not currently feasible.

16: Why don't they send inmates to other county jails instead?

Significant cost

To send one inmate to jail at another facility for a year would cost \$35/day or \$12,775/year PLUS transportation costs back and forth to court PLUS all associated medical costs. To increase capacity by 8 through this may costs as much as \$200,000 annually. To increase by 75 through this process would cost \$1.5-\$2 million.

17: Will the inmates get improved accommodations?

Accommodations to be kept as simple as possible, but will meet all state codes.

The cell design is very simplistic. The recreation area will only meet state minimums. There will be increased visibility/supervision of inmates with the new design.

18: Why don't they send more people to prison instead of jail?

State limitations on Prosecutors and Judges

Due to state sentencing guidelines, there are limitations on who can and cannot be sent to state prison. Typically, habitual severe and violent offenders can be sent to prison. Otherwise, they are the county jails responsibility.

19: Why don't they stop putting people in jail for marijuana?

Marijuana charges are not a driver of the current capacity issues.

The last time there was emergency overcrowding and the jail exceeded 100 people, only 1 person was in jail on marijuana charges.

20: What about counseling/programming?

The new facility does provide adequate programming/counseling space.

One goal that helps all is reduced recidivism. The new facility will have classrooms for counseling/programming. The goal would be to seek national/state grants that could provide programming to reduce drug addiction and increase employment.

Any Other Question

Submit your question to CorrectionsProject@deltacountymi.org and it will be distributed to the appropriate Delta County contact to answer your question.