

Carbon County Detention Facility Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why do people have to be in jail?

There has to be an end game for people that will not comply with alternatives to detention. Individuals who are incarcerated and placed in detention facilities are put there for a variety of reasons. Primarily it has to do with severity of offenses. For example, homicide suspects, assault suspects, sexual assault suspects, are placed in detention due to the seriousness of the offense they are suspected of. Another consideration is the propensity of offenders to commit crimes while charges are currently pending. For example, an offender with a high recidivism offense, such as sexual assault of a minor, needs to be in jail until their charges are resolved and they are sentenced for the crime committed. For the safety of the community, these individuals need to be monitored and segregated from the public due to the nature of their offense, and the likelihood they will commit the same offense again. There is always the ability to bond out of jail. However, when, or if this is done, conditions of release are set by the judge, and monitoring regulations can be set with probation or parole. Jailing individuals initially on offenses committed can also provide discretion to the Judge presiding over the case.

There are currently 193 outstanding warrants in Carbon County Courts totaling \$525,924; the Montana Highway Patrol has more than 2,000 outstanding warrants in the Billings District.

Why is Carbon County considering building a Detention Facility?

There are people that should be in jail that aren't. Yellowstone County is regularly 100+ inmates over capacity and almost never has room for Carbon County's arrestees. Most of our inmates are housed in Bozeman but it is also frequently at maximum capacity. This leaves Townsend, Forsyth, or Miles City as housing options but transports to all of these locations require a Deputy to be out of County and off patrol in excess of 5 hours and costs more than \$500 in wages and mileage. Unless someone has committed a violent crime they usually do not see the inside of a jail cell because of the distance and time necessary to get them to a facility. In the case that someone is transported, Carbon County can be left without patrolling deputies. Transporting inmates across the State and housing them in overcrowded facilities creates a liability situation for the County should an inmate be involved in a motor vehicle accident or incident due to dangerously overcrowded conditions.

We have engaged the services of our on-call architect Spectrum Group Architects and their subcontractor Lombard Conrad Architects to help with preliminary design and cost estimates. These architects have been involved in the design and construction of 76 adult detention facilities, 22 juvenile detention centers, 17 prisons, and 12 work release centers. Lombard Conrad has worked on over 200 justice projects with more than 19,000 beds, 5 million square feet and a value of over \$1billion in construction costs. We recently hired an Owner's Construction Representative, Hulteng CCM, to represent the County's interest in this project. Hulteng brings over 65 years of experience in construction management with public agency facilities including recent Detention additions in Yellowstone and Gallatin Counties.

Why locate the Facility in Joliet?

Affordability, central location within the county, and access to workforce were major factors in selecting this site. After going through a Request for Proposals process, 17 site proposals were

received by the Commissioners. The Stevens' property on the South side of Joliet was selected as the best location when considering land cost, site preparation costs including water and sewer facilities, the availability of possible workforce, and public acceptance. All sites offered in Red Lodge were too small, cost prohibitive, or subject to subdivision covenants which made those sites impractical. Joliet's central location in the county and proximity to partners in Stillwater and Sweetgrass counties also make it the favored location. Carbon County has received confirmation from the Town of Joliet and their engineers that the Town has the water and sewer capacity for the facility; some lines may need to be upsized to accommodate the facility's higher water needs. There is no provision in law for the location of the facility to be put to a formal vote. The Commissioners were elected to make decisions on behalf of the citizens of Carbon County and selected the site on its merits from the sites that were proposed. The site of the facility had to be determined prior to the election being ordered.

Why purchase the property before the bond is decided?

The County believes this is the right location and to secure the site needed to purchase the property or risk it being sold to another party before the bond could be put to a vote.

How much is it going to cost me?

Cost to Residential Property \$19M Construction Bond + Operating Levy				
		Mill Increase		
		5 beds rented	15 beds rented	25 beds rented
Net Operating Budget		2,017,570	1,652,570	1,287,570
Operating Mills		38.5	31.52	24.56
Construction Mills		21.3	21.3	21.3
TOTAL Mills		59.8	52.82	45.86
Per MT Dept of Revenue		Annual Tax Impact		
Property Value	Taxable Value	5 beds rented	15 beds rented	25 beds rented
\$100,000	\$1,350	\$ 80.73	\$ 66.56	\$ 61.91
\$200,000	\$2,700	\$ 161.46	\$ 133.11	\$ 123.82
\$400,000	\$5,400	\$ 322.92	\$ 266.22	\$ 247.64

(Any additional contracts for bed rentals will reduce the operating levy)

Taxable value can be viewed on the Department of Revenue Site: <http://svc.mt.gov/dor/property/prc>

What is the timeline for this process?

- 4/20/2021..... Bond and Levy amounts finalized and ballot language submitted
- 5/4/2021..... Adopt a Resolution calling for the Election
- 8/3/2021..... Bond election via mail. Ballots will be mailed 15-20 days beforehand
- October 2021..... Close on Bonds
- Winter/Spring 2022... County completes bidding process for Design/Build
- April 2022..... Necessary permits acquired by County; construction begins (12-16 months)
- Winter 2022..... Hiring/training Detention Facility staff
- Fall/Winter 2023 Carbon County Detention Facility projected to house first inmates

More information is available on Carbon County's website:
<https://co.carbon.mt.us/construction-issues/detention-facility-planning/>