



The Ohio Prototype Jail Design

By

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Sheriff David Barber of Knox County has a problem. His 86-year old jail is overcrowded, not up to code and can't house the number of offenders sentenced to jail time. "We are very enthused about being the first jurisdiction to use the prototype jail." said Sheriff Barber. "Due to the expected cost savings, a new Knox County Jail will finally become a reality. We cannot afford not to build a new jail. The cost of housing prisoners in other jails last year was \$96,000."

The State of Ohio launched a jail-funding program in 1983, currently implemented through the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's (DRC), Bureau of Adult Detention. The goal of this program is to eliminate the physical barriers to housing inmates in a safe and secure environment and to reduce the number of offenders waiting to serve their sentence.

The funding program provides local jurisdictions with funds to assist in replacing, renovating or adding to local jail facilities in accordance with the Minimum Standards for Jails in Ohio. The Bureau is also working to reduce jail construction costs. Recently, a cost per bed strategy was implemented enabling jurisdictions that build cost-effective jails to receive a larger percentage of state funding. To further reduce the cost of building, a Prototype Jail Design (PJD) has been developed.

In 1996, the legislature (through House Bill 748) established authority for the development of a prototype jail. The legislature designated \$250,000 to enable the DRC's, Bureau of Adult Detention to "contract for services and goods for the purpose of developing a site-adaptable, cost-effective prototype jail design and architectural drawings to be made available to local jurisdictions for their use in constructing a jail." To facilitate the development process, a committee was formed. The PJD Committee included three jail administrators, two county commissioners and three Bureau staff. The committee gathered information through surveys and personal knowledge, then developed program guidelines for the PJD. Requests for proposals were mailed to 102 architectural firms to solicit their interest in and qualifications for selection as the prototype jail architect. The Department's Construction, Activation and Maintenance section and the Ohio's Department of Administrative Services assisted in the establishment of the selection process and review of the applicants. Following intense review of the proposals, individual interviews and submission of sealed bids, the architectural firm with the lowest and best bid, Wachtel and McAnally of Newark, Ohio, was selected to develop the PJD. The PJD Committee worked diligently with the selected architect to develop the prototype jail package.

The PJD is a no-frills, full-service, multi-classification jail design that is compliant with the Minimum Standards for Jails in Ohio and the related Construction Renovation Criteria. It is a cost-effective, site-adaptable design that has the flexibility to meet the basic needs of a wide variety of jurisdictions. The PJD comes in two forms: a 52-bed design and a 100-bed design. Both designs can be readily modified to meet unique needs and desires. It is specifically targeted to reduce costs to those entities that either have no jail or that have an aged, inadequate and non-compliant full-service jail.

There are many benefits to using the PJD including the opportunity for a local jurisdiction to:

- ◆ Minimize preliminary architectural design time
- ◆ Save up to 30% on initial architectural design fees
- ◆ Achieve compliance with the Minimum Standards for Jails in Ohio
- ◆ Reduce the time from the decision, to plan, to operational status
- ◆ Easily and economically modify the design to meet individual requirements
- ◆ Utilize modern technology and materials
- ◆ Reduce construction and operational costs
- ◆ Adapt to a variety of site conditions, utility requirements and aesthetic considerations

While the new design will provide many benefits to local jurisdictions that utilize it, there are limitations that must be considered. These limitations include the following:

- ◆ Operation is dictated by the design
- ◆ Staffing is dictated by the design
- ◆ The design is small-jail oriented
- ◆ The design is for a jail only
- ◆ The design is location sensitive

Any jurisdiction choosing to utilize the PJD will receive considerable assistance from the Bureau to maximize its implementation. Specifically, the PJD service package will provide:

- ◆ Information, planning and technical assistance meetings
- ◆ Plans and specifications complete through Design Development
- ◆ Generic policy and procedure manual modifiable to meet individual needs and requirements
- ◆ Preliminary construction cost estimate
- ◆ Preliminary operational cost estimate
- ◆ Preliminary staffing plan

The PJD is a free service offered by the Bureau of Adult Detention. Cost is limited to the reproduction costs for drawings, specifications and the policy and procedure manual. In addition, the jurisdiction will be responsible for Architectural/Engineering fees necessary to complete the design. This cost will vary depending upon the amount of work necessary to site adapt the project, incorporate desired changes into the project and modify the design according to local code and utility requirements. Additional costs will also include permits, loose equipment and furniture. They also may include landscaping, miscellaneous furnishings, security systems, computer and telecommunication systems additional to or exceeding the scope of the basic PJD.

If you would like more information about the PJD, please contact the Bureau of Adult Detention at 614-752-1066.