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TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

To: Kootenai County Citizens
From: Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
Date: July 2, 2008
Re: KMB Facility Plan

The following pages are a cover report prepared by Kootenai County for the KMB "**Kootenai County 2020 Public Safety Facilities Plan.**" The actual plan was presented to the Bureau of County Commissioners and Kootenai County Sheriff's Department Administration on June 18, 2008.

This PDF is provided to the citizens as a foreword to the KMB plan and will present the reader with the facts and information used for the KMB study. However, this PDF is not the Facility Plan itself.

We appreciate your investment in the time you are taking to be an informed citizen.

Thank you for your concern.

KMB
“Kootenai County
2020 Public Safety Facilities Plan”
Draft Review – June 18, 2008

INTRODUCTION

Kootenai County has experienced significant growth, especially in recent years. The County’s population figures are:

1970: 35,332
1980: 59,770
1990: 69,795
2000: 108,685
2007: 134,442
2020: 225,501 – 243,668 (est.)

This growth has impacted the resources and ability of the County to provide efficient and effective services to residents and visitors alike. An area especially hard hit are County facilities, which have not kept pace with the population explosion.

FACILITY ISSUES

Introduction

In **1988, the Kootenai County population was less than 70,000** and the Sheriff’s Department had less than **105 total employees**. In **2007**, Kootenai County’s population was estimated at **134,442** and the Sheriff’s Department has grown to **280 total personnel**. In 2020 the population is projected to be 225,501 – 243,668.

Sheriff’s Department (Law Enforcement Functions) “Emergency Operations Center”:

The Kootenai County Sheriff’s Emergency Operations Center was **completed in 1988**. This building houses the Patrol, Detective (including Property and Evidence) Records and Civil Divisions, as well as Animal Control, Community Service Officer and Information Services Sections and the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management. The building was full at the time of completion.

The Police Facility Planning Institute recommends 230 square feet per employee for a law enforcement agency the size of the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department. The current overcrowded and outdated facility provides about 120 square feet per employee (Operations and Support Services Bureau personnel). Personnel now occupy former storage areas and operational records and evidence utilized daily are located in various other buildings on the Sheriff's campus, mandating wasted personnel time to travel between buildings.

All major law enforcement agencies in the area either have new, spacious and professional quarters (with as much as 400+ sq. ft. per employee to accommodate future growth) or are in the process of building modern facilities.

Jail

The **current Jail** opened in **1987** with **95 beds**. **Within five years, overcrowding** resulted in **storage space being converted into bed space** for a total of **125 beds**. In the **late 1990's** a Jail assessment projected a **need for 435 beds**. In **1999**, a **Jail expansion to 325 beds**, of which **224 beds were less expensive dormitory style**, was approved by voters and **completed in 2002**. In **March 2004**, **jail overcrowding began** with 329 inmates. In **2005**, a **307 bed addition was proposed providing the Jail with a total capacity of 632 beds**. **This Jail expansion was proposed for a build out to 2012**. This expansion included the essential core facilities (i.e.; kitchen, laundry, medical unit, control rooms, etc.) to last to the year 2020. This **ballot measure received 63% of the vote**, but failed to pass (supermajority of 66 2/3% required for passage). In 2006, the average daily inmate population continued to rise. Also, in **May of 2006**, the Sheriff's Department started **contracting for out of county inmate housing**. Contracts were signed with **Ferry County** (Republic), **WA (313 mile round trip)** and Geiger Correctional Facility in Spokane County (76 mile round trip). More recently, contracts were signed with **Sanders County** (Thompson Falls), **MT (303 mile round trip)** and Shoshone County (Wallace), ID (101 mile round trip).

Throughout the years, the Kootenai County Criminal Justice System has put forth great effort to enroll offenders into **alternative programs** (Unsupervised Probation, Felony Probation and Parole, Adult Misdemeanor Probation, Sheriff's Community Labor Program, Community Court Services Program, Pre-Trial Release and Work Release) rather than incarceration in jail. These programs average 7,597 per month, therefore ***there are over 22 times the people in alternative programs than incarcerated in jail.*** In addition, **the Jail itself has 11 inmate support programs** (Chaplain Services, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Commerce and Labor Life Skills Training, Drug Awareness, Celebrate Recovery, Anger Management, Purpose Driven Life, Bible Study, G.E.D. and Church Services).

Continuing to house inmates out of the county/state cannot continue for the following reasons:

- There are currently approximately **70 contractual beds available** in detention facilities **within a 150 mile radius**. This number will diminish in the future as those agencies utilize their excess capacity for their own use.
 - **By 2020** it is projected that **Kootenai County would have to house an average between 318 – 360 and as high as 483 inmates per day in out of county/state jail facilities to avoid overcrowding.**
 - Currently the **next closest available beds** are in **Yakima, WA (474 miles round trip)** and **Hardin, MT (1,110 miles round trip).**
- Contracting detention facilities limit the inmates they will house based on inmates: criminal history, current charges, classification level (security risk) and disciplinary and behavior history.
 - **In 2012** the **average daily jail inmate population** is projected to be **516 – 609**. Based on inmate classification levels and profiles, **there will not be enough inmates that will meet the criteria to be housed in an out of county/state contract detention facility,** causing overcrowding in the existing Kootenai County Jail.
 - In addition, **pre-sentenced inmates cannot be housed out of Kootenai County** due to the need to be available for court appearances and other judicial proceedings.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Kootenai County Board of County Commissioners understands that:

- 1. County facilities, especially public safety buildings (Jail, Law Enforcement Buildings ("Emergency Operation Center"), etc. at the Sheriff's Department complex, have not kept pace with population or activity growth.**
- 2. The lack of appropriate space results in operational ineffectiveness; therefore, reducing the level of law enforcement service to the residents of Kootenai County. In addition, it is not efficient use of taxpayer money.**
- 3. Prior facility related efforts were short term resolutions, resulting in the need for additional expansions almost immediately thereafter.**

Therefore, the Board of County Commissioners **retained the KMB Design Groups, Inc.** of Olympia, Washington **to conduct a needs assessment of all Sheriff's Department facilities**, with the **intent of identifying necessary space requirements through the year 2020 (a longer term resolution)**. KMB has extensive public safety expertise and planning experience, including a previous relationship with Kootenai County.

KMB worked with the Sheriff's Department, and other affected County Departments, to assess needs and develop a "Kootenai County 2020 Public Safety Facilities Plan," a "**Draft Review**" of which was presented to the Board of County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department on June 18, 2008.

"KMB 2020 PUBLIC FACILITIES PLAN – Draft Review"

The KMB Plan addresses numerous needs and provides a myriad of solutions:

Kootenai County Administration - Provides:

- **Additional space in the overcrowded Administration Building** by moving Vehicle Licensing and Driver's Licensing to the Sheriff's Department campus.
- **More parking spaces for the public** at the Administration Building.
- **Community Rooms** in the new Sheriff's Public Safety Building for County and public meetings.

Sheriff's Department - Resolves lack of space for:

- **Operations Bureau: Patrol & Detective Divisions**
 - **Patrol Deputies and Detectives** -
 - Work/office space.
 - Major case area (room for other agencies, work space, conference areas, etc.).
 - Interviewing/Interrogating rooms.
 - **Evidence** -
 - Processing area.
 - Storage (short and long term).
 - Hazardous material storage.
 - **Recreation Safety Section** -
 - Personnel work/office space.
 - Boat/recreational vehicle storage.
 - Work area for boats/recreational vehicles.

- Storage area for equipment and supplies.
 - **Volunteers work area.**
 - **Training facilities -**
 - Classroom/s.
 - Firearms Training.
 - Physical Fitness/Defensive Tactics Training.
 - **Assembly area** for mobilization, briefings, etc.
 - **Locker facilities.**
- **Support Services Bureau**
 - **Records and Civil Divisions -**
 - Personnel work/office space.
 - Storage for working and archived original records (mandated by state statute).
 - **Drivers Licensing -**
 - Personnel work/office space.
 - Public waiting area.
 - Public parking.
 - **Vehicle Maintenance Shop -**
 - Work bays.
 - Parts/supplies storage.
 - Personnel work/office space.
 - **Bulk purchasing/storage facilities.**
- **Communications Bureau (911 Center) -**
 - Personnel work/office **space for dispatchers (emergency calls for 14 fire, emergency medical services and law enforcement agencies).**
 - Equipment exchange for new generation radios (federally mandated 700 MHz System).
- **Jail Bureau –**
 - Provides necessary **cell space for inmate management** (genders and violent from non-violent offenders) **and segregation** (separating gang members, sex offenders, predatory inmates and disciplinary problems to prevent violence).
 - **Provides 820 beds**, for a projected maximum daily inmate population of 808 in 2020. **Minimizes liability (conditions of confinement tort claims and lawsuits), safety issues pertaining to inmates and staff and ACLU complaints** emanating from:
 - Inmates double and triple bunked in single cells.
 - Inmates sleeping on floors.

- Unsafe conditions caused by overcrowding (inmate unrest, aggression and violence towards each other and staff).
- Provides **increased cell capacity for inmates with higher security level classifications.** This secure housing is more costly to build than the previous dormitory housing constructed during the last expansion completed in 2002. These cells are required for the increase in **felony (over 2/3 of all inmates)** and violent offenders incarcerated in the jail.
- Provides an **expanded medical unit** for medically infirmed, suicidal and inmates suffering from mental illness.
- Provides for **critical core facilities** (i.e.; kitchen, laundry, medical unit, control rooms, etc.) which will support not only expansion to 2020 (820 beds), but future expansions up to a total of 1,100 beds.
- **Storage for bulk purchases of food and other commodities** which **will provide significant cost savings.**
- **Includes** over **\$13,000,000** in **renovations and ancillary needs** (expanded medical unit, administrative areas, inmate property storage, inmate records, public visitation, inmate classification, warrants and parking, etc.) which would be **required** for an expanded inmate population **even if the KMB proposal is not implemented and inmates could continue to be housed elsewhere.**
- **Eliminate** transporting inmates to **out of county/state contractual housing**, would **cost MINIMUM \$72,953,250** **between 2009 and 2020**, assuming beds were available and they would accept our inmates (***NEITHER IS POSSIBLE***).

NOTE: Overcrowding will invariably result in a Court mandate to build an expanded Jail, as they have elsewhere. This Court ordered expansion would come solely out of property taxes, as the 1/2 cent sales tax option would not be available. In addition, there is potential that a Court challenge could remove out of county/state housing as an option for relieving overcrowding.

- **Entire Sheriff's Department** -
 - Storage for equipment, materials, supplies, etc.
 - Office work area for photocopying, etc.
 - Break area/s.
 - Conference rooms/private meeting area/s.
 - Parking for department and staff vehicles.

Vehicle Licensing – Resolves lack of space for:

- Work/office space.
- Waiting area for public.

- Parking area for public.

Kootenai County Misdemeanor Probation – Resolves:

- Current placement in a building which is beyond its useable service life.
- Lack of work/office space.
- Lack of waiting area for public.
- Lack of parking area for public.

Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management – Resolves:

- Lack of work/office space.
- Lack of work area for outside agencies (fire, EMS, law enforcement, utility companies, etc.) during emergency operations (flooding, etc.).
- Displacing the Sheriff's Department Patrol Division during emergency operations.

CONCLUSION

The Board of County Commissioners and the Kootenai County Sheriff's Department are committed to providing professional, cost effective and efficient services to the residents of Kootenai County. ***With a lack of appropriate space, taxpayer money has to be utilized for expensive temporary solutions, such as shipping inmates out of state and renting space, which is not operationally effective, cost efficient and creates officer safety and liability issues.*** The intent of the KMB study is to identify long-term solutions to facility and public safety operational needs, which will allow the Sheriff's Department to provide enhanced public safety services to the residents of Kootenai County.

The Board of County Commissioners and Sheriff's Department will evaluate the materials provided by KMB to determine:

- What facility needs resolutions will be brought to the voters.
- When those resolutions will be brought to the voters.
- What funding mechanism/s are available.

The needs of visitors and residents for public safety are substantial, as are the corresponding facility requirements and the financial resources necessary for both temporary and long term solutions to facility needs.