# WEBER COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER BOND



Photos of current medical and mental health facilities.

# INVESTING IN WEBER COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER'S INFRASTRUCTURE & RESOURCES

As Weber County experiences unprecedented growth, our commitment to public safety remains unwavering. Our current Justice Center now requires upgrades to meet today's needs and anticipate tomorrow's challenges. This proposed project is about more than just adding beds; it's about enhancing public safety, updating critical facilities, and creating cost-effective solutions.

The project includes remodeling a portion of the current 12th Street Correctional Facility to provide transportation services, video court, and constitutionally required medical and mental health services. It also includes a building to relocate administrative offices, consolidate services provided to inmates, and relocate the work release inmates housed in the Kiesel Jail Facility to the Justice Center.

# ТАХ ІМРАСТ

- The anticipated interest rate on the proposed bond issue, based upon current market conditions, is 3.43% per annum.
- The estimated average annual cost to the taxpayer of the proposed bonds is a tax of \$4.51 per month (\$54.09 per year) on a \$468,000 primary residence.
- The estimated average annual cost to the taxpayer of the proposed bonds is a tax of \$8.20 per month (\$98.34 per year) on a \$468,000 business.

#### **PROPOSED PROJECT:**

The proposed project provides constitutionally required medical and mental health services, a more secure transport center for inmates, a designated space for video court, an additional building for administrative offices and community release programs for inmates.

# **MEDICAL & MENTAL HEALTH HOUSING**

The new facility will have 48 additional mental health beds for inmates with mental health issues.



Current male medical cells



Current mental health unit

#### **MEDICAL HEALTH CLINIC & INFIRMARY**

- **10 infirmary beds** with vital sign monitoring and oxygen support (the existing facility's 6 medical cells do not have such capability)
- **7 health exam rooms**, including dedicated mental health exam rooms (the current facility has only 2 exam rooms)
- Trauma suite and dialysis suite
- Expanded pharmacy with increased security for safekeeping of medications
- Larger dedicated office space for medical staff
- Additional storage space for securing medical supplies
- **Expanded dental treatment room** with an additional chair (current area has a single antiquated chair with various equipment stored along the walls)



Current medical & mental health facility



Current mental health unit



Current medical room



Current dental room

# TRANSPORT CENTER

- New, physically separated exit and entry zones for inmates, which will help prevent drugs, weapons, and other harmful contraband from being imported into the facility
- Allows the booking area to be used solely for booking (the booking area is currently used for booking and transport)
- New individual and group holding rooms for the transport area (the current facility has none)
- **New transport yard**, which can accommodate multiple transport vehicles at once. The current facility does not have a transport yard
- The transport center can serve as an emergency shelter for inmates if needed.

## VIDEO COURT

- **Expanded video court room** that will be able to accommodate multiple court sessions at once (the current room can only accommodate one session at a time)
- Includes modernized technology, which will improve remote connections, sound, video, and the overall judicial process
- New technology will allow inmates to attend video breakout sessions with their attorneys.

# **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

• Building new administrative offices costs significantly less than building a new secure facility. Therefore, administrative offices will be relocated to a new building, freeing up space in the secure facility for jail operations.

### **COMMUNITY RELEASE PROGRAM CENTER**

- **Community release programs will be consolidated into one new location**, reducing the cost of securing and staffing the programs altogether.
- The work release program will be relocated from the Kiesel facility (in downtown Ogden) to the Justice Center on 12th Street.
- The community release program center will be able to host more community partners that provide services to inmates preparing to reenter society.

#### ADDRESSING NEEDS

The Weber County Sheriff's Office is committed to public safety. The Weber Justice Center remodel and expansion will provide resources to incarcerated individuals to help reduce the likelihood of re-offense, ultimately reducing crime. As the Justice Center is at capacity, the proposed project plans for the future needs of our community while reducing long-term costs.

# **1. INCREASED PUBLIC SAFETY**



- Increased capacity to receive/book local offenders (in Weber County)
- Decreased need to transport and treat inmates outside of the facility
- Prevent drugs/weapons from being imported into the facility

Currently, inmates enter and exit the Justice Center through the same corridor. The project will create separate inbound and outbound corridors, which will help reduce exposure to harmful substances and weapons.

Expanded video court services reduce transportation costs and increase public safety since inmates will not be leaving the Justice Center.

# 2. PROPER CUSTODIAL CARE

- **48 additional mental health beds and 10 infirmary beds** with vital signs monitoring and oxygen support
- **7 health exam rooms**, including dedicated mental health exam rooms (the current facility has only 2 exam rooms)
- **Expanded dental treatment room with an additional chair** (current area has a single antiquated chair with various equipment stored along the walls)
- Provide new mental health services that are not currently available
- Consolidate community release programs to the Justice Center rather than outsourcing

By providing additional medical/mental health space, the project will better meet the current demand for mental health treatment and plan for population growth.

### **3. DECREASE OPERATIONAL COSTS**

- Decrease costs to transport inmates outside of the Justice Center
- Eliminate cost of staffing multiple locations, which reduces liability
- Eliminate maintenance costs of the old Kiesel facility, which currently houses work release inmates

#### **4. REDUCE REPEAT OFFENDING**

- Accessible community release programs prepare inmates for reentry to society. These include work release and nonprofit programs.
- Onsite services help address mental illness that leads to re-offense

Community release programs better prepare inmates for reentry to society and decrease the likelihood of re-offense, thus reducing crime and increasing public safety.

#### **Q & A**

**Q:** What is the objective of the project? **A:** The ultimate objective is to enhance public safety and security management, reduce long-term costs, optimize operational bed space, and improve access to legal proceedings.

**Q:** How does the project contribute to community safety?

**A:** By improving treatment availability within the facility and eliminating extensive transportation needs, the project can enhance security while providing necessary care. Streamlined transportation not only safeguards security but also mitigates liability risks.

**Q:** What is the current capacity, and what will it be if the Justice Center is remodeled and expanded as proposed?

**A:** The current rated capacity is 888 beds. Under the proposed expansion, the facility would have an additional 48 beds, increasing the total capacity to 936 beds.

**Q:** How does incarceration impact mental health? **A:** Currently, our facility faces an average of 64 patients on suicide watch per month, all housed in our six medical/mental health cells. The American Psychological Association shows that 64%\* of jail inmates suffer from moderate to serious mental health conditions

\*https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/repeatarrests.html



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https://www.webercountyutah.gov/weberjusticecenter/