



Sheriff Reg Shireman looks over new jail plans

# Moving facilities expected to be major operation

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The White County Sheriff Department, Communications Center, Community Corrections and Jail are planning a major one-day operation for sometime in March or April.

The operation has nothing to do with a drug bust or any other form of criminal activity.

Instead, hours of intense concentration are being devoted to the safest and best means to move all four departments to the new facility on Sixth Street.

"It's so complex and I'm sure people understand that. There's nothing I've ever experienced compared to this," White County Sheriff Reg Shireman said.

The sheriff explained that, with four departments moving at approximately the same time, the entire process becomes much more complicated.

Many of the furnishings and equipment for the new jail will

have to be bought, Shireman said.

"There's no compatibility with what we have here and where we're going because of the size," he said.

This is a project that sheriffs haven't had to deal with since the old jail was built, he added.

"I and several sheriffs before me inherited this jail as a working facility," he said.

Many of the furnishing problems have more to do with money than moving since a lot of the furniture will be new, he said.

The jail has become more than just a jail. Other departments have moved in and needed office space.

Moving into a new facility will cause a great many changes in procedures, he added.

The sheriff has been working on the new procedures to go with the jail.

A two-inch thick binder contains the rough draft of the new policies for the jail, Shireman said.

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Others will have to move completely in one day, he said. This will include all of the files and records concerning any prisoners the jail is housing at that time. A very low estimate would be 20,000 such records, Shireman said.

Each of the records has to be kept at the same location as the prisoner to which the records refer.

Clothing, food and medical supplies for the prisoners, and equipment for the officers, will all have to be moved that day, he said.

Maintaining security at both sites simultaneously will present the biggest problem and will be the factor that forces them to completely move in one day, he said.

"We're going to close the door and lock the door all in one day," Shireman said. "It will pretty well tie us up for a day's time but it shouldn't pull us away from and present a danger to the community."

The new policies will take care of all of the problems associated with the occupancy of the jail at least doubling, he said.

Some of the problems he's working on include how to use inmate labor to accomplish laundry, cooking and cleaning.

The new jail will also allow for other programs that the old jail did not have the space to run. The new policies have to cover those as well.

New programs include education, substance abuse programs and counseling for the prisoners, Shireman said.

"The new facility has the capability to handle programs like these," he said.

The biggest problem remains moving facilities in just one day, he said.

Some departments, such as dispatch and communications, will have to operate at two locations for a time, he said.