

## Questions and Answers . . . .

### Why is the County proposing a new jail?

- Existing jail holds only one-third of arrested Newton County prisoners.
- Transportation/housing costs for housing local prisoners in other counties was over \$300,000 for last 18 months. Sheriff transfers prisoners to Jasper, Polk, and other county jails.
- There is no guarantee on housing rates charged by other counties or that other counties will continue to accept our prisoners.
- Current jail is costly to maintain – old plumbing and electrical.
- Jail operates under several variances from State Jail Commission.
- Jailers and public are at risk of injury in use of existing jail.

### What happens if we don't build a jail?

- Continue to transport and house County prisoners out-of-county; continue to pay other counties for holding our inmates.
- Continue to expend County funds on maintenance and repair of the old jail.
- Continued risk of injury to jailers and public.
- Continue to be subject each year to cancellation of variances by State Jail Commission.

### Where would we build the Jail and Annex?

- The Project would be located at the existing detention center site on Hwy 87. The current plan is to renovate and expand an existing building into a Justice Center Annex. Current plans also call for

part of the existing detention center to be renovated into a County Jail and Law Enforcement Center, which will include Sheriff's offices and a County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Public parking would be added.

### Why renovate the detention center on Hwy 87 into a Law Enforcement Center and Justice Center Annex instead of building new?

- Existing facility was built to State jail standards and does not require change to existing inmate housing structure.
- County purchased existing buildings and 29 acres for one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).
- The existing detention center only needs repairs and renovations – the County estimates that a new facility would cost over \$18 million for the jail alone.

- Offices need to be moved out of the Courthouse due to ongoing structural issues. These offices can be located at the existing detention center site in renovated existing buildings.

### When would the project be completed?

- It is expected that the project will be completed in Spring 2023.

### How much will the project cost?

- The combined budget for the County Jail, Law Enforcement Center, and the Justice Center Annex renovation and addition is approximately **\$12 million**. That budget includes project costs for site work, construction, renovation, furnishings, fixtures, equipment, and professional fees.



Preliminary Site Plan - County owned property on Hwy 87.

**What if building costs are less than budget?**

- The bond proceeds may only be used for the identified project costs and reducing the amount of debt.

**What will the project cost me?**

- Any person and any company owning taxable property in Newton County will be subject to a bond tax based on the valuation of their property. There may be some exemptions granted.
- Below are some possible examples of annual/yearly tax increases associated with issuance of bonds for the Project, based on taxable values shown on your tax statements:

<u>Taxable Value of Property</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Tax Increase</u>
\$20,000 x \$.06 per \$100 value	= \$12 per yr.
\$40,000 x \$.06 per \$100 value	= \$24 per yr.
\$50,000 x \$.06 per \$100 value	= \$30 per yr.
\$75,000 x \$.06 per \$100 value	= \$45 per yr.
\$100,000 x \$.06 per \$100 value	= \$60 per yr.

In preparing the estimates shown above, interest on the bonds was estimated at 2.479% for bonds with a 20-year maturity. Bond interest rates are currently at **near record lows** for the past fifty years based on Bond Buyer Index. Annual tax increase calculations based on approximately \$0.06 per \$100 taxable property valuation. (Current projected rate is \$0.058 per \$100.)

**What is included in the Project?**

- **Justice Center Annex** – Offices for Criminal District Attorney, District Clerk, and Justice of the Peace. Multi-purpose Courtroom for District, County, and Justice Court.

- **Jail and Law Enforcement Center** – A State compliant County Jail with secure vehicle entrance, capacity for male and female prisoners, special housing cells for medical safety and disciplinary separation, and required support spaces. Sheriff’s offices and dispatch. Newton County Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

**Where can I vote? Can I vote early?**

- **Early Voting Locations:**  
All Voting Boxes  
-at County Clerk’s Office  
Voting Boxes  
9, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 21 only  
- at Deweyville Sub-Courthouse
- **Early Voting Dates:**  
October 18<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>  
Monday through Friday  
8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
- **Extended Days and Hours for Early Voting – Dates:**  
October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM  
October 24<sup>th</sup>, Sun. 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Will public meetings be held for us to get more information and ask questions?**

Public meetings have been scheduled for:

- Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Toledo Village Comm. Center
- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Cade Building, Burkeville
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Hughes Outreach Center, Bon Wier
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 4 PM Trout Creek VFD Building
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Deweyville Sub-Courthouse
- Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM Newton Civic Center

# *Newton County Jail Renovation and Justice Annex*

## **Bond Election Fact Sheet**

### *Questions and Answers about the proposed:*

- *County Jail*
- *Law Enforcement Center*
- *Justice Center Annex*
- *Bond Election*

## **Bond Election Date** *November 2, 2021*

*Early Voting begins October 18<sup>th</sup>.*