

Richland County County Facilities Planning Committee

January 22, 2026

The Richland County Facilities Planning Committee convened on January 22, 2026, in person and virtually at 5:00 PM in the County Boardroom of the Richland County Courthouse.

Call To Order: Committee Chair Turk called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Roll Call: Committee Chair Turk conducted roll call. Committee members present: Steve Carrow, Sandra Kramer, Rod Perry, David Turk, and Marc Couey. Committee member(s) absent: Melvin “Bob” Frank, and Steve Williamson.

Verification Of Open Meetings Law Compliance: County Clerk Kalish confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed.

Approval Of Agenda: Motion by Carrow second by Kramer to approve agenda. Motion carried and agenda was approved.

Approval Of Minutes From The January 6, 2026 Meeting: Committee Chair Turk asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the January 6, 2026 meeting. Hearing none, Committee Chair Turk declared the minutes from the January 6, 2026, meeting approved as presented.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion Of Current And Future Space Needs, Structural Soundness, And Safety For The Sheriff’s Office: Sheriff Porter reported the following regarding the current and future space needs, structural soundness, and safety of the Sheriff’s Office:

- The department functions in the current space as best as it can
- There is no room for growth and storage space is not adequate
- HVAC facilities randomly stop working
- There is a presence of rodents
- Water present in various areas within office
- Although the Sheriff’s Office and County Jail are two different things, they are still interconnected

Cory Beyer of Venture Architects noted that replacement parts for the current electrical and locking components are difficult to find and costly due to their age. Porter noted the inefficient use of space. Supervisor Carrow asked if the space needs are a problem now and Beyer noted that the space could be utilized more if reworked. Supervisor Perry noted the facilities in the Sheriff’s Office have needed attention for a long time, a new facility is needed, and something must be done until a new space is complete.

Discussion Of Current And Future Space Needs, Structural Soundness, And Safety For The County Jail: Jail Administrator Rupnow and Sheriff Porter reported the following items regarding the current and future space needs, structural soundness, and safety of the County Jail:

- Lack of space and difficulty in housing inmates with varying classifications
- Cells are not conducive to those with mental health problems
- Lack of storage space

Richland County County Facilities Planning Committee

- No programming and/or recreation areas
- Non-secure dispatch (control center)
- Outdated linear layout
- Access concerns with stairs and ADA compliance

Jail Administrator Rupnow noted while a jail is not statutorily required, housing at other facilities is costly and capacity varies, and that remodeling the current facilities may equate to additional components being brought up to code in the process. Chief Deputy Wallace noted that the current setup presents challenges for EMS to provide care if/when needed and that the shared elevator also poses various problems. Supervisor Carrow asked if the capacity of the jail could be reduced, and Sheriff Porter noted they are moving people as they need to. Supervisor Couey stated that if something needs to be done to make it easier to update and be in an improved condition, it needs to happen now as a new facility is cost prohibitive. Beyer noted that it would be a minimum of 3 years before a newly built facility could be occupied and that there's a need for capacity of working ability. Brief discussion of timeline followed. Supervisor Turk noted the financial constraints of building a new facility and Sheriff Porter noted that unknown cost variables may also be present. Supervisor Perry asked where transports go, and Sheriff Porter reported that neighboring facilities are helpful with this aspect. Supervisor Kramer asked if a joint facility has been considered and Sheriff Porter answered it has. Supervisor asked about the approximate cost for a new facility and Beyer reported approximately 30 million dollars for a jail only. Brief discussion on cost followed. Citizen Shirley Welte noted concerns about employee safety and felt that it was an understated concern. Sheriff Porter briefly reviewed other safety concerns.

Discussion & Possible Action – Review Of Small And Large Courtroom Layouts: Administrator Clements asked if the committee desired a full presentation on the small and large courtroom layouts or if the information already available was enough to conclude that the layouts are unsafe for all and should be placed towards the top of the priority list. Supervisor Couey agreed and noted they should be moved to the top of the priority list. Supervisor Carrow noted there are many things in addition to just floorplan issues. Administrator Clements reported minor things have been addressed and will continue to be completed as they can. Brief discussion followed regarding courtroom safety. Motion by Couey second by Kramer to confirm that the courtrooms and associated areas need safety, structural, and space changes that should be designated as a priority. Motion carried.

Discussion & Possible Action – Set Future Meeting Date(s): Future meeting dates outlined in meeting schedule already approved.

Correspondence: None.

Future Agenda Items: Items indicated on approved schedule.

Adjourn: Motion by Kramer second by Couey to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.



Derek S. Kalish
County Clerk