

Richardson Co Sheriff Proposes New Jail

(KTNC) - Sheriff Randy Houser presented Richardson County Commissioners with plans for a new jail building Tuesday morning.

Sheriff Houser asked commissioners to put out a request for proposal to have architects submit bids to build a new jail, that would be attached to the front of the Armory Building on the west edge of Falls City. He said the design is based somewhat on the new jail in Hiawatha, and would likely meet state jail standards. (play audio :37)

Houser estimated the cost of the 48-by-76 foot building would be \$900,000 using the lowest-cost construction methods, which he said would be much less expensive than building a new jail. (play audio :36)

One of the main areas where Richardson County's current jail runs afoul of Jail Standards, Houser said, is that there is no outdoor recreation area for inmates. A fenced-in recreation area is included in the plans Houser presented.

The next phase in the process, Houser said, was finding an architect to design a jail that would meet jail standards, and to get cost estimates for the building.

After discussion, Commissioners tabled action on the matter until next week.