



DICKINSON COUNTY

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JAIL/COURTHOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE **October 28th, 2019**

There's been a lot of progress on the jail project over the past few months since the last written update. Below is a summary that brings the project activities up to date as of today.

April, May and June of this year were consumed with finalizing the specs and obtaining bids on the project. The first round of bids that were requested included the new jail project and the courthouse renovation together. When those bids came in the prices on items for the courthouse renovation portion were much higher than expected. It is believed that since that portion of the project remains 12 to 14 months down the road, and we were asking the contractors to bid on something that is that far out front, that the resulting prices were bid high to protect their interests, so it was decided to split the project into two parts, with part 1 being the jail and sheriff's department that is going on right now, and then re-bid the courthouse renovation as that time gets closer. The resulting bids were much closer to what was expected, with the new jail and sheriff's department bids coming in at \$11,200,000. The engineer's estimates for this were \$11,000,000 so it was not very far off. The Construction Manager (Lloyd Builders) was given the green light and the County Commission approved the bids.

The initial project began with fencing in the construction area and removal of the parking lot and street areas east of the courthouse. All of the utilities needed to be relocated since all but the water currently entered on the east side of the courthouse. Electrical, phone, gas, and data all worked to relocate their services. The courthouse chiller was relocated to a temporary pad on the north side of the courthouse and the jail exercise area, stairs, power poles, basement stairways were all removed. The basement doors and windows were all closed in and sealed up, and dirt work began to prepare the site for the foundation.

This week personnel from Boyd Construct of Abilene are working diligently to remove the old remnants of the Belle Springs Creamery that were all shoved in the basement and covered up when that building was removed 20 years ago. They will then replace that void with good fill and compact the ground so that the foundation contractor can begin to layout and install the footings and the floor of the new facility as soon as next Monday.

Temporary water and gas service has to be installed into the north side of the current courthouse to allow for the removal of the old service which is on the north and east side where the new jail will be located.

At the same time as all the above a new doorway has been installed in the north side of the existing courthouse and the room inside has been cleaned out to allow for the installation of the new electrical service room. All electrical power for the existing courthouse and the new jail and sheriff's department will be served through this room once the project is completed.

There are a lot of things moving in different directions currently, many of which have to be done to make the next stage work correctly. Much like a jigsaw puzzle, if the beginning parts don't come together correctly then the rest of the puzzle will be flawed.

Below are a few photos taken this week of the project as site work has been taking place:

