



IRON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF KENNETH K. CARPENTER

August 23, 2023

Dear Friends,

Six years ago, when I first ran for the Office of Sheriff, the need for a new jail and Sheriff's Office was a major campaign issue. This was in part due to the failing infrastructure of the current facility, increased maintenance costs and the potential of future civil rights law suits, the threat of overcrowding due to poor environmental design of the facility and required separation of inmates by classification standards, and the continuous growth of our county from people fleeing other states.

For the past six years, the Commission, the Sheriff's Office and several others have worked tirelessly and consistently to achieve this great need. The county has saved \$20 million towards this project, but due to conditions beyond our control (rising wages in Utah resulting from de-fund the police, soaring interest rates, loss of Critical Infrastructure Board grants due to Biden Administration actions in reducing or eliminating mining, gas, and oil production) has eliminated the possibility of building a single pod facility through self-bonding. As a result, we have looked seriously at a two pod facility that will allow us to meet the county's growing needs for the foreseeable future while contracting out additional space to state and federal agency inmates which would pay the bond, the increase hiring of deputies to staff the additional space, and eventually could bring an additional cash flow of approximately \$3 million into the county's general fund, further reducing the need for future tax increases. If this is NOT what the county voters want or desires, we are happy to return to a one pod facility, it is much less work for us. BUT the payment will have to be solely borne by the tax payer. It is estimated by current growth projections, a second pod will be required in ten to 20 years, which also will have to be paid solely by the tax payer.

Currently the projected cost of a two pod facility is estimated at \$100 million which means we need to bond \$82 million. A single pod facility is estimated at \$75 million, a difference of \$27 million. However, to build a second pod at a later date at today's cost is estimated to be \$33 million and is expected to increase as time goes by. It IS NOT feasible to remodel the current facility as it still will not meet our future needs and is not cost effective. The current plan is to tear down the jail portion of the complex and sell the office space portion and land that will further reduce the bond amount.

One thing I want to make sure you understand, everything we have done and are doing in this matter is out of love for our community and concern for each of your safety and wellbeing. We believe, it is in the best interest of the community as a whole. I understand there are a host of concerns by our citizens, but this is a NEED of the community required by state law and will meet the needs of a rapidly changing county for many years to come. I hope you see the wisdom in this course forward and will support us in this difficult but necessary decision. The need is not going away.

With Respect,


K. K. CARPENTER
Sheriff