

JAIL BOOKING FACILITY

Sheriff Anderson met today with the supervisors to discuss a \$2 million addition to the new Polk County jail. When DM closed its jail, they entered in to an agreement with Sheriff Anderson for Polk County to keep the Central Booking Facility downtown as 60%-70% of all arrests in Polk County are made in Des Moines. Travel times for DM police would be fairly short.

Since the site just north of I35/I80 was chosen for the new jail, a study of travel times for DM officers was done. DM is divided into four beats – NW, NE, SE, & SW. Most arrests come from the two northern quadrants, so if the Booking was done at the new jail site, travel times for those officers would actually be shorter, and the net difference for all four is only slightly higher.

Moving Central Booking away from downtown to the new jail site could save 31 FTE's at an annual operating savings of \$1.5 - \$1.8 million. The only available source of funds to do this is, of course, the rapidly shrinking old Prairie Meadows dollars.

Other jail operating issues that need to be resolved are the food service contract, the medical care contract, and the question of exactly how many Federal prisoners are available &/or should be taken in. The Supervisors are tired (and probably rightly so) of the slow decision-making coming from the Sheriffs Department. They gave Sheriff Anderson 90 days to get "everything" resolved. Tom, EJ, and Bill Vaughn have been meeting with the Sheriff to work out the transition and 2008/09 Operations funding.