

County Jail

\$5 million goal set to construct facility

By BILL ANDREE
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Construction of a new White County Jail must be completed by September 1998, according to the terms of an architectural firm's contract signed Monday.

The \$357,500 contract with Schenkel Schultz, Fort Wayne, executed Monday by the county commissioners commits the firm to not only design a new \$5 million jail, but also to administer the construction phase of the project within the next 36 months.

The scope of the architect's basic services includes the preparation of a schematic design, design development documents describing the size and architecture of the jail, construction drawings and specifications, preparation and awarding of the construction contract and administration of the construction contract until completion.

The county's \$357,500 contract with the architect does not include the additional costs of

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construction, construction management costs, building permits and consulting fees associated with financing the venture.

According to the contract, the commissioners have given the architect a construction cost goal of approximately \$5 million.

The new jail will be a one-story structure with between 35,000 and 45,000 square feet — approximately five or six times the size of the existing jail, according to the architect.

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The contract states that the jail must be designed to provide adequate light, air, sanitation and fire protection and comply with all governmental requirements.

The contract language inserted by the commissioners stresses "the necessity for economical construction and the maximization of usable floor areas" in the design. The commissioners also require that the jail be designed with a pitched (not flat) roof and "a modest appearance."

Ancillary support features of the jail include a kitchen, visitors area, medical examination rooms, indoor and outdoor exercise areas, a day room, law library, booking area, administrative offices for the sheriff, deputies and corrections officers, and a central control room for the jail and a satellite control room for the housing area.

Many of the new jail's ancillary features will conform to jail standards set by the

American Correction Association, said architect David J. Sholl, the vice president of Schenkel Schultz.

The ACA jail standards are not mandatory, but they are often considered by judges in settling damage suits brought by inmates, Sholl said.

A law library could consist of nothing more than a cart with books rolled into a cell, he added.

A timetable for the various phases of the project is being developed this week and will be reviewed by the county commissioners sometime next week, Sholl said Tuesday.

Commissioner Dean Fleck confirmed Tuesday that funding for the architect's \$357,500 contract has not been budgeted and that a request for an additional appropriation from the county treasury will be made to the White County Council.

The contract obligates the commissioners to designate a representative who can act on behalf of county government to work with the architect "to avoid unreasonable delays in the orderly sequential progress of the architect's services."

Fleck said, "It is very likely one of the county commissioners will be appointed to that post."