

Jail bids problematic

County trying to fill \$1.4 million gap in project

By AMY OBERLIN
Herald Journal Staff

The new White County Jail cannot be built until a \$1.4 million gap in funding is filled.

White County Council promised \$2 million for the project. City Securities Corp. planned to sell \$5.78 million in bonds to cover the rest of the costs.

Councilmen Larry Brown, Jimm Mann and Todd Riley attended Thursday's special meeting of the White County Board of Commissioners in an effort to reach a solution. The county's general fund is dwindling due to budgeting problems and the fact that property taxes have not been collected yet this year.

"Another million is going to be very hard to come by," said Brown.

Commission President Chuck Altman agreed. "If it takes more money it has to be bonded," he said.

The commissioners could decide to rewrite the lease. They've already signed a 15-year lease that calls for \$600,000 payments annually on \$5.78 million in bonds.



LARRY BROWN
Funds tight already

"You'd just basically go back through the procedure we've already accomplished," said County Attorney John Goss.

The county would have to petition to sign the lease and contact the Local Control Tax Board. The procedure takes an average of 90 days.

Randy Ruhl of City Securities



TODD RILEY
Seeks solution

will present some financing options at Monday's regular commissioner's meeting. Payment periods and interest rates could be examined.

"We could probably get a little bit closer," said Ruhl.

Some additional expenses of the jail project could be cut out. A \$50,000 detached evidence



JIM MANN
Seeks solution

building was made part of the main building at the last minute, so that cost can be deleted. Laundry equipment, clothing and mattresses account for \$30,000.

Sheriff Reg Shireman noted that at Monday's meeting of White County Communications

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County not alone with jail problem

By AMY OBERLIN
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The \$1.4 million more needed for the White County Jail project seems to be a sign of the times.

Parke County opened bids for its jail project on Tuesday, the same day White County did. Parke County planned a \$4.1 million facility, compared to White County's projected \$5.8 million.

Bids for the Parke County Jail came in at \$6.55 million, \$2.4 million over estimates.

"Part of it is that it's that time of year and everybody's busy," said Terry Janitz of construction management company Everett E. Bucy Building Services.

He said some of the companies that bid were already booked. They bid high so if they did get the job, they would have sufficient funds to pay for overtime work.

Gap

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Board it may be announced that some of the equipment intended for the communications station in the new jail would not be able to be used. Radio equipment was slated to cost \$130,000.

"We can cut a substantial

amount of that," he said.

By cutting here and there, the gap may begin to close, but money will still be needed.

"We can't sign contracts without having our funding," Goss stated.