December 17, 2025

Darren Batterson, Chairman
Wapello County Supervisors
215 N. Court
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Re: Wapello County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Batterson,

The Wapello County Jail was inspected on December 17, 2025, by the Iowa Department of Corrections, as required by Iowa Code Section 356, to ensure compliance with Chapter 201-50 of the Iowa Administrative Code. The inspection included an examination of staff training records, required documentation, prisoner files, and a tour of the jail. Please note the following administrative code sections, comments and recommendations for corrective action:

IAC 201—50.9(356,356A) Fire safety and emergency evacuation.

50.9(11) Mattresses. Only fire-resistant mattresses of a type that will not sustain a flame and certified by an independent testing laboratory and that meet the standards established by the state fire marshal shall be used in jails. Mattresses that are ripped, excessively cracked or which contain large holes shall be replaced. Pillows shall be replaced when torn or excessively cracked.

Comment: Several mattresses are showing signs of deterioration, ie: cracks, rips, and tears.

Corrective action: Please ensure all mattresses that are in a deteriorated condition is repaired or replaced.

IAC 201—50.14(356,356A) Cleanliness and hygiene.

50.14(1) Housekeeping.

a. The jail shall be kept clean and sanitary. Toilets, wash basins, showers and other equipment throughout the facility shall be maintained in good working order. Walls, floors and ceilings shall be well maintained.

Comment: During the walk through of the jail, the dayrooms were found to be clean and well-organized. The individual cells were found to be in general disorder and unorganized. Several lights and vents were covered or had recently been covered, and a sink had left over dishes in them.

Corrective action: Wapello County is commended for the cleanliness of the dayrooms. The same effort should be applied to the cells. Several lights and vents covered along with foreign material residue, and a sink was full of dirty dishes. Please correct these areas of concern to ensure healthy and sanitary living and working conditions for the prisoners and staff.

Additional comments

Documentation appears to be complete and was readily available for inspection.

A review of the policy and procedure manual was completed. It appears the manual is complete and well-written.

I wish to express my appreciation Sheriff Don Phillips, Chief Deputy Marty Wonderlin, Jail Administrator Jason Fuller, Assistant Jail Administrator Chaylee Godvin, and the entire staff of the Wapello County Jail for their cooperation and assistance during the inspection.

Sincerely,
Delbert G. Longley
Chief Jail Inspector

cc: Sheriff
County Attorney
File