November 28, 2022

Jerry Parker, Chairman
Wapello County Supervisors
215 N. Court
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Re: Wapello County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Parker,

The Wapello County Jail was inspected on November 22, 2022, 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, several lights and vents were covered or had recently been covered.

Corrective action: Please ensure all lights and vents are thoroughly cleaned and remained free of any foreign material to ensure healthy and sanitary living and working conditions for the prisoners and staff.

Additional comments:

Wapello County has completed a renovation of all showers in the jail since the last on site inspection. This is a major improvement and Wapello County is commended for their efforts.

I wish to thank Sheriff Don Phillips, Jail Administrator Chris Swope, Assistant Jail Administrator Jason Fuller, 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