November 28, 2023

Brian Morgan, Chairman
Wapello County Supervisors
215 N. Court
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

Re: Wapello County Jail Inspection

Dear Chairman Morgan,

The Wapello County Jail was inspected on November 21, 2023, 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. The shower drain in Pod 1300A had standing water.

Corrective action: Please ensure the drain is open and operating properly at all times. Several 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.

IAC 201—50.4(356,356A) Physical plant—general.

50.4(3) Heating and ventilation. All detention and living areas shall be reasonably heated and ventilated, with air flow sufficient to admit fresh air and remove disagreeable odors, to ensure healthful and comfortable living and working conditions for prisoners and staff. Fans and an adequate supply of cold liquids will be made available and utilized when indoor temperatures exceed 85° Fahrenheit.

Comment: Hot water was not available at all sinks in the jail.

Corrective action: Please ensure hot water is available at all locations throughout the jail.

I wish to thank 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