

Submitter: Mandy Decker

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5531
Topic:

I am writing today in support of the 1.6-million-dollar infrastructure money for the Wallowa County Justice Center. I have worked for Wallowa County for 25 years and am the only employee that has worked in this building since inception. I am currently the building manager and oversee repairs and maintenance on our building. This building is now 20 years old and was not designed for growth and was not designed for safety in the current climate.

We do not currently have a sally port, and this puts law enforcement officers and persons in custody at risk every time they pull in to take them to the holding cell. We also currently do not have enough room to house our adult community corrections in separate offices, and this makes for a backlog of offenders in our lobby. This is the same lobby that our juveniles must enter to contact their juvenile counselors, and the public uses the same lobby as all youth and adult probationers.

We do not have a current meeting room that is separate from dispatch. This is problematic when deputies or search and rescue need to meet to staff a case or have a staff briefing especially during emergency events such as fires and SAR calls. Currently our search and rescue team has access to a trailer, but it is not sufficient for cases that include multiple agencies and when they need a home base for communication and organization of search efforts. We do not have a separate space for interviews of victims or suspects.

We desperately need this money to upgrade the safety of our building, integrate ample office space for employees, meeting rooms, and technology upgrades to assist with timely response time to emergencies. Thank you for your time and your effort to help frontier counties within Oregon.

Mandy Decker

Wallowa County Juvenile Director