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Prospective contractors for Madison County Jail renovation tour facility

Bids due March 7 on \$9 million project

Scott Cousins, scousins@thetelegraph.com Published 7:36 pm, Wednesday, February 14, 2018



EDWARDSVILLE — Prospective bidders on the upcoming long-term Madison County Jail renovation project got a chance to take a closer look at the facility in a series of tours Tuesday and Wednesday.

At Tuesday's Facilities Management Committee, Director of Facilities Rob Schmidt said 23 contractors went through the jail Tuesday, and another 20 were expected to tour Wednesday.

A \$9 million multi-year renovation project is expected to begin later this year. The deadline to submit bids is 2 p.m. March 7. Schmidt said that there are nine companies bidding to be the general contractor, something that he and other county officials are very happy about.

There had been concerns expressed over the past several months about the number of contractors bidding on county projects, and Schmidt and others have been attempting to find ways to encourage more companies to submit bids, with some success.

In addition to general contractors, some of the participants were from potential subcontractors, Schmidt said Tuesday.

"It's difficult but it's well worth the time," he said.

Capt. Eric Decker of the Madison County Sheriff's Department said the biggest logistical issue, as far as the reorientation, is making sure that no prisoners are in the same area at the time.

That includes moving prisoners out of the cell blocks being worked on; checkpoints, tool inspections and escorts for the workers; and stricter rules on moving inmates within the jail.

As part of the renovation project, which is expected to take three years, officials have said the jail population has to be decreased, and security measures added.

Schmidt also reported several other projects where additional bidders have made a difference.

He said the county had received a low bid of \$66,332 for reconstruction of the handicapped ramp at the Administration Building. He also noted that another company had made an "alternate bid" of \$52,986 that included using part of the existing handrails.

The county had previously bid the project and received a single bid of more than \$110,000. Part of the cost would be paid through a \$50,000 grant. The project is

considered necessary because the ramp does not meet federal Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

"We had much better luck this time," Schmidt said.

There was also some discussion about whether both bidders should have a chance to submit an alternate bid, but no decision was reached. Schmidt said there was some time to consider it because the concrete work could not begin until April.

Schmidt added that the county has 11 bidders for a boiler room asbestos abatement project at the Wood River Annex. Bids are due Feb. 20, with the project to start in early April.

He then updated the committee on several other asbestos-related issues.

Three of those issues were "in need of attention" and abated; and a full asbestos survey of the juvenile detention facility was completed.

Schmidt said there are only two places in the building with asbestos containing materials — both in small supply closets — and do not pose any hazard.

In other business, the committee approved a number of requests to use county property, including:

- The Wagner Potters Association will place signage on the courthouse lawn for its semiannual pottery sale from April 21-28.
- Madison County Planning and Development will use the Administration Building lobby for its annual "Trashformations" event April 7-23.
- Madison County Mental Health Board will use the Administration Building lobby for the kick-off of the "Southern Region's Child Abuse Prevention Month" from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. April 6.

- Goshen Market will use the courthouse lawn for the 2018 Community Market from May 12-Oct. 29.

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