

March 2018

Law and Justice Interim Committee
Rachel Weiss

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY DETENTION CENTER

The Yellowstone County Detention Center is an adult detention facility operated by the county. It houses adults who have been charged with criminal offenses or are being held post-sentencing until they can be transferred to a prison or other corrections facility. The county has gradually expanded the detention center's capacity over the years and is in the final stages of constructing a 148-bed women's unit.

Counties may establish detention centers (more commonly known as "jails") and are required by Montana law to provide individuals held in the detention center with "necessary food, clothing, and bedding." The county also has the "duty of building, operating, inspecting, and repairing the detention center and must take all necessary precautions against escape, sickness, or infection." In addition, detention centers must comply with state and local fire codes as well as sanitation, safety, and health codes.

Key Facts

- Head of the facility: Sheriff Mike Linder
- Jail commander: Captain Sam Bofto
- Number of beds: 482 (Male 394, Female 87). The facility was built with 286 beds and will expand to 435 beds.
- Staff: 92
- Average daily population: Total: 480, Male: 396, Female: 85
- DOC hold count as of March 9, 2018: Total: 32, Male: 25, Female: 7
- FY 2018 Budget: \$11,100,000

Sources

- Title 7, Ch. 32, Part 22, MCA,
www.leg.mt.gov/bills/mca/title_0070/chapter_0320/part_0220/sections_index.html
- Yellowstone County Detention Center staff and website,
www.co.yellowstone.mt.gov/sheriff/detention/
 - Clair Johnson, "Yellowstone County Jail Expansion is on Time and Within Budget," *Billings Gazette*, May 3, 2017, available from www.billingsgazette.com/news/local/yellowstone-county-jail-expansion-is-on-time-and-within-budget/article_0f94bb29-39c7-5a59-a2f6-ae621743a121.html, last accessed Feb. 16, 2018
 - "Locked in the Past: Montana's Jails in Crisis," *The American Civil Liberties Union of Montana*, Feb. 1, 2015, p. 49, available from www.aclumontana.org/sites/default/files/field_documents/2015-aclu-jail-report.pdf, last accessed Feb. 16, 2018