

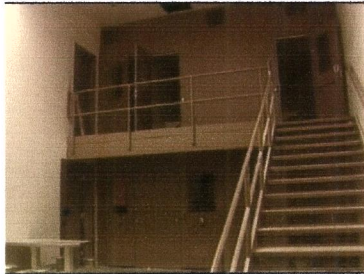
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Buffalo County Jail Update

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After more than a year of construction things are coming together for the new Buffalo County Jail. Officials are already starting to anticipate moving in.

Field Superintendent Carl Gibbs hopes to have the Sheriff and his staff in the new building by the middle of January for training. Following training, inmates should be moved in by February. But, that's only the first phase.

There's still no ceiling, no tile on the floor, and no security systems, but all of that is just finishing work. "They're doing a lot of tile, they're bringing in countertops. After that they'll bring in security and electronics people," explained Corrections Officer Clayton Edwards.

Those people could be in before the end of the month. They would get things ready for the Sheriff to move in and train his staff before transferring inmates. "That's our gameplan that they could be up and running and transfer inmates by the middle of January at the latest," Gibbs explained.

The \$24.5 million justice center will have 203 beds for prisoners compared to the 75 they can now house. "They'll have more than double the amount of beds for inmates. Right now we run over capacity. We have to ship inmates to and from Dawson County," explained Edwards.

Once inmates are transferred to the new jail, phase two of construction will begin. Workers will tear down the old jail adding the final beds and a new court complex. They hope to finish up in early 20-11. "It's been a long time. A lot of work people have put into it. It's not something that's just been going on since the bond election. It's been four, five, six...a lot of years before the bond election," said Edwards.

The project is running about two weeks behind schedule. October's wet weather made it difficult to finish some projects.



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