

Lincoln Parish Detention Center Report

Introduction

Lincoln Parish Detention Center Commission Brief History

Summary of Previous Reports on Detention Center

Current Operation of Lincoln Parish Detention Center

Current Effort to Study Five Options for Future of the
Detention Center

1. Sell the Lincoln Parish Detention Center
2. Retain the Current Operational Management (i.e. LaSalle Management)
3. Allow the LPDC Commission to Operate the DC
4. Allow LPDC Commission to hire Sheriff's Office to Operate Lincoln Parish Detention Center
5. Implement a Shared Management Option

Summary

Attachments

Current Operation of Lincoln Parish Detention Center

A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement regarding operations and maintenance of LPDC and the custody, care, and safekeeping of Lincoln Parish Detention Center inmates was established between the Lincoln Parish Detention Center Commission authorized by its Chairman, Sheriff Mike Stone and LaSalle Management Company, L.L.C., a Louisiana limited liability company domiciled at the time in Richland Parish, Louisiana (later relocating to Ruston, Louisiana and Lincoln Parish) through its duly authorized Managing Member, William K. McConnell.

The Commission, as keeper of the DC, responsible for the physical maintenance and charged with the duty of providing upkeep of all persons lawfully incarcerated in Lincoln Parish established an agreement with LaSalle an experienced owner, operator, and manager of various detention and/or prison facilities within and outside of the State of Louisiana. The Commission believed that LaSalle could operate, manage, and maintain the Lincoln Parish DC and provide the custody, care, and safekeeping of Commission inmates in the safest, most efficient and cost effective manner for the citizens of Lincoln Parish.

The Commission specifically acknowledges that LaSalle is authorized to house, confine, and maintain Commission inmates of every nature and kind at the LPDC, Jackson Parish Correctional Center, or any other facility located in the State of Louisiana which might be owned by LaSalle as LaSalle deems necessary and appropriate for its overall operational needs.

The Commission shall have the right to use and occupy two hundred (200) beds in the facilities described in the agreement and pay the per diem rate of \$29.54 per inmate per bed per day at LPDC and \$27.54 per inmate per bed per day at other LaSalle managed facilities. LaSalle was required to submit an itemized invoice for services each month to the Commission. The payment would be made within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the invoice.

Much more detail can be reviewed in the original agreement seen as Attachment C in this report.

Current Study by Lincoln Parish Detention Center Commission of Five Future Options for the Detention Center

The Lincoln Parish Detention Center Commission held a Public Meeting on November 5th, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Lincoln Parish Police Jury Conference Room. Members present: Chairman Mike Stone, Sheriff; Members of Police Jury – Theresa Wyatt (President), Joe Henderson, and Ronnie Walker; District Attorney – Bob Levy; Ruston Police Chief – Steve Rogers, and Ed Pittman, representing the City of Ruston.

After preliminary activities were concluded guests were introduced: several Police Jury members, Billy and Clay McConnell, Zac Crooks, Johnny Creed, and Miriah Carrico of LaSalle Management, citizens, and the media.

Sheriff Stone as Chair expressed what he thought was a need to establish a Jail Study Committee to be chaired by Jim Tuten. Other members of the committee are President Theresa Wyatt and Ronnie Walker from the Police Jury, Ed Pittman and Chief of Police Steve Rogers of Ruston, and Dr. Gary Stokley who would be responsible for a report of the results of the work conducted by the committee.

Mr. Tuten stated it would be the purpose of the Jail Committee to study two components related to the Lincoln Parish Detention Center: 1) Structural (physical facilities) and 2) Operations and Management of the facility. Within this study subcommittees would study the different aspect of these two critical components.

Jim Tuten offered four options to be studied within the framework of the two components for the future direction of the LPDC. Four options to be studied and explored were as follows: 1) Continue the contract between the Lincoln Parish Police Jury and LaSalle Management to operate the LPDC 2) Allow the Lincoln Parish Detention Center Commission to operate and manage the facility 3) Consider the Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office assuming the operations and management of the Detention Center, and 4) Explore the possibility of a shared Management Operation between the Sheriff's Office and LaSalle Management.

Sheriff Stone thought it would be appropriate for him to step down as Chair of the LPDC Commission since his office was being considered in two of the options. Therefore, it would be necessary to select a new set of officers for the LPDC Commission. The Commission nominated and selected Joe Henderson as the new Chair and Bob Levy as Vice-Chairman.

There was considerable discussion among people in attendance regarding current, past, and future issues with the Lincoln Parish Detention Center.

- Mr. Bobby Gray, Treasurer for the Lincoln Parish Police Jury explained that if the DC goes over budget (a deficit) the original costs are assumed on a proportion with the Police Jury absorbing 85% and the City of Ruston 15%.
- The costs to update and maintain a 30+ year old facility which is in need of significant updating, maintenance, replacement, etc.
- Concern was expressed that Lincoln Parish inmates were being re-located to other parishes placing stress on 1) families who want to visit and 2) defense attorneys who need to see their clients in order to represent them in court. The last issue places pressure on the defense counsel and sometimes the court in resolving pre-trial issues.
- Is it possible to provide educational and vocational training at the DC? It was mentioned that programs are provided at the Jackson Parish facility. In addition Delta Community College was mentioned as a possibility of providing educational services.
- Several building problems were mentioned: constant plumbing problems often due to inmate action, washer and dryer breakdowns, as well as mechanical problems, etc.
- During the discussion a fifth option was suggested and that was to sell the Detention Center. This would save substantial costs to the Police Jury and they would not have to worry about day to day operations.
- There was a suggestion to add a Fifth Option during the discussion. That option would be to advertise and sell the Detention Center.

A second meeting of the LPDC Commission was convened on December 17, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the Lincoln Parish Police Jury Conference Room, Lincoln Parish Courthouse. Chairman, Joe Henderson called the meeting to order. After the Invocation, recognition of guests (Police Jurors not on the Jail Committee, LaSalle Management Staff, citizens, and media, and Minutes of the last meeting were approved Mr. Henderson called on Jim Tuten, Chair, of the Jail Committee to update the LPDC Commission. He informed the Commission and everyone in attendance that the Fire Marshal had conducted an inspection on December 10th of the DC and identified three major mechanical problems placing inmates at risk which needed attention immediately. All doors need to function electronically and by key so that no one can be trapped behind a defective lock. Failure to correct would result in the removal of state prisoners. The LPDC Commission had fifteen days (December 28th) to provide an immediate action plan for correction of the problems. An Action Plan was successfully submitted and work has been ongoing.

The Commission voted unanimously without discussion to expend whatever the costs (which Mr. Tuten estimated to be approximately \$460,000 for the security door) to comply with the Fire Marshal's Report. See Attachment D for greater detail of the Fire Marshal Report.