



Western Virginia Regional Jail Authority

Serving the City of Salem and Counties of Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke

Charles I. Poff, Jr., Superintendent

Fact Sheet

- In 2004, Roanoke County and the City of Salem entered into discussions with the counties of Franklin and Montgomery regarding the need for a regional facility that could accommodate current and future inmate populations. Then, as now, the jail facilities in these localities operated at two to three times their rated capacity.
- The resulting Western Virginia Regional Jail is a partnership between the City of Salem, and counties of Franklin, Montgomery, and Roanoke. This regional partnership spanning four jurisdictions is a historic and unprecedented cooperative effort between the Roanoke and New River valleys.
- Initially, the County of Roanoke had planned to expand its current jail, but a feasibility study indicated that the current site in downtown Salem could not provide sufficient bed space to meet anticipated inmate population growth.
- The approximate total cost of the jail is \$122 million. The Commonwealth of Virginia reimburses up to 50% of the construction cost for a regional jail project – compared to only 25% for a local jail – so it made sound financial sense for the four jurisdictions to partner together on this project.
- The new Regional Jail is located on a 42.713-acre tract of land off West River Road in Roanoke County. It commences operations on March 9, 2009, and will employ approximately 200 people.
- The 264,000-square-foot facility will have a rated capacity for 605 inmates. A total of 200 cells will be double bunked during construction, which will provide a total of 805 general purpose beds upon opening. In the future, further construction on this site can expand the facility to provide an additional 649 rated capacity.
- The Regional Jail will seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. The facility includes green features that are environmentally friendly and will reduce energy costs over the life of the building. Some of the features include the capture and re-use of rooftop rain water for laundry operations, a vacuum-assisted plumbing system, and electronic water monitoring to minimize the purchase, use, and treatment of water.
- Inmate visitation will be provided via video visitation at each member jurisdiction's local jail. This will reduce travel time and expense for visitors and minimize traffic into and out of the facility, thereby enhancing jail security.

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- As part of the Community Based Correctional Plan, the three local jails will remain in operation and will house pre-trial and community custody inmates. This will minimize costs associated with transportation to and from local courts.
- The facility will house both male and female inmates who are sentenced or who are awaiting release or transfer to the Department of Corrections. It will also house overflow inmates from the existing three jails, to include those with segregation, medical, or mental health needs.
- The Regional Jail's first academy of 55 correctional officers graduated from the Roanoke County Criminal Justice Academy on November 1, 2008. A second academy of 52 graduated February 12, 2009. The correctional officers completed 11 weeks of vigorous training in correctional law, firearms, defensive tactics, vehicle operations, and a number of other training programs. After graduation, they began an intensive internal training program to prepare them for the opening of the jail facility. This program consisted of enhanced training on the jail's policies and procedures, operational procedures, as well as detailed training on the operation of the jail's security systems.
- Construction partners involved in this project include:
 - Hayes, Seay, Mattern & Mattern
 - Thomas & Litton (Architects and Engineers)
 - Branch Highways
 - Howard Shockey & Sons (General Contractor)
 - Construction Dynamics Group (an Arcadis company, Construction Management)

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