

Richardson County Commissioners Hear Architect Presentation, look at Jail Cells (KTNC)--The architectural merry-go-round continues on the Richardson County Jail project.

Last year, the county retained the Omaha firm Prochaska and Associates to do a needs assessment and draw up preliminary designs to turn the Armory on the west edge of Falls City into a county jail. After Prochaska and Associates cost estimates for the project came in higher than expected, the county brought in the Goldberg Group of St. Joseph to draw up jail designs.

On Tuesday, Don Prochaska and Steve Riley of Prochaska and Associates gave Richardson County Commissioners an updated cost projection for the jail project, with a few changes to the design.

Prochaska told commissioners that Goldberg Group's design nearly matches their earlier designs. While the Goldberg Group's projected costs were lower than Prochaska and Associates, Prochaska said any costs at this point are merely speculative and actual costs would not be known until the bids come in.

Riley presented the updated cost projections and a side-by-side comparison of the two firms' estimates. The updated figures from Prochaska removed a geothermal heat pump, which was not in the Goldberg Group's projections. Prochaska's new project budget is \$2.937 million, compared to \$2.49 million from the Goldberg Group.

The project is on hold as the county waits for approval from Nebraska Jail Standards on the Goldberg Group's design. Jail Standards had approved Prochaska's initial design. Riley says the sticking point appears to be that there is no separation of dispatch and master control areas in the design, something that Jail Standards requires.

Riley said the Goldberg Group's projections also don't include any contingency costs and a lower estimate for miscellaneous costs associated with the project.

As commissioners continue to mull possible jail designs and cost estimates, they got a look Tuesday at possible cells that could be included in the facility. Jay Seavy of Maximum Security Systems gave commissioners an up close look at prefab steel jail cells that his company manufactures.

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