



OFFICE OF WELD COUNTY COUNCIL

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WELD COUNTY COUNCIL 2024 – 2nd Quarter REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

The Weld County Council is mandated in accordance with the Home Rule Charter of Weld County, Colorado, to report to the people of Weld County on a quarterly basis, those matters related to the council's review of Weld County government. This report summarizes the activities of the Weld County Council during the second quarter of the calendar year 2024.

April 15, 2024

Sheriff Steve Reams

Sheriff Reams said during a review of his department the goal of the sheriff's department is to provide effective public safety services with honor and integrity.

The office has three divisions: administration; detentions and patrol. With an overall budget of \$73 million: administration makes up \$9.8 million; patrol \$18.1 million; and detentions \$44.9 million.

The sheriff said he has 448 employees. EEs. They recently added a records and evidence department. They had been sharing with the Greeley Police Department, but the new records and evidence department has been a "Godsend," the sheriff said.

The Sheriff's Department accepts volunteers who are typically focused on a career in law enforcement but can't or don't want to do it full-time. Sheriff Reams said the extra eyes and ears are extremely helpful.

The jail currently has about 550 detainees, most of whom are Weld County residents. Capacity at the jail has decreased from about 776 detainees to 562. The jail was forced to expand in 2017-2018, but will not need new facilities unless something dramatic happens with state legislation, the sheriff said. He said the jail structure should be good for another 30 years.

He said the department spends a lot of money transporting inmates downtown to the courts. He'd like to see an in-house system implemented to decrease that expense.

An estimated 50 percent of inmates are diagnosed or claim some kind of mental issue, Sheriff Reams said. Transgender inmates are on the rise and DUI arrests increased 24.4 percent in 2023 from 2022. The sheriff said that DUIs typically occur when a community experiences financial challenges.

May 20, 2024

Doug Erler, Justice Services

Mr. Erler and his Deputy Director Dianna Campbell gave an overview of the Justice Services Department.

The department was created in 2008. It currently has 39 staff and 3 operational locations throughout the county. An estimated 2,550 defendants/offenders are under the department's collective watch.

The Community Corrections and Administration division serves two types of adult defendants; those halfway out of prison and those halfway into prison.

The department organizes the community corrections board; manages program performance standards/compliance; handles contract and fiscal reporting; data management and technical assistance.

The appeal is it's less expensive than prison. Offenders can work, go through treatment and pay restitution and child support. The program budgets their paychecks.

The facility has 155 beds and receives \$4 million in state funding, of which the department keeps 4 percent for administration.

Offenders are typically in the program from 18 months to 16 years.

The department has a good relationship with NorthRange for substance and behavioral health issues and it also has in-house clinicians.

Pretrial services:

1)Objective - risk assessment – collect info and analyze new arrestees to determine their level of risk to the public or failure to appear in court.

2)Setting and enforcing court-ordered conditions on defendants who are released from jail and monitoring for compliance.

Risk Assessment and Supervision: daily staff screen new arrestees at the main jail for daily bail/bond hearings; currently 1,398 risk assessments completed and 303 domestic violence screening reports completed for the courts, district attorney and public defenders.

Supervision: currently 2,227 cases/defendants overall being tracked by the program. 1,671 defendants currently ordered to/on pretrial release community supervision.

Alternative Sentencing Programs: work release and electronic home monitoring

June 17, 2024

Hannah Swanbom, Director of Weld County Extension Program

Ms. Swanbom and her associate director, County Fair Coordinator, Mikayla Gable, discussed challenges faced by their department.

A big challenge for the department is necessary facilities updates. They are running out of space and storage as there isn't adequate space for meetings or trainings.

Their exhibition building is in bad shape, along with the 4H building and livestock barn. The department is growing, but the poor conditions of their buildings is making it difficult.

Ms. Gable said she has 1,400 entries for the 2024 fair, but the lack of expansion space is another challenge.

Ms. Swanbom said the fair is a highlight every year. They've expanded food and nutrition programs and the 4H program is the largest in the state with more than 1,000 participants and 200-plus volunteers.


WELD COUNTY COUNCIL


Council President Nancy Teksten


Council Vice-President Elijah Hatch


Councilmember Trent Leisy


Councilmember Cindy Beemer


Councilmember James Welch

Date Signed: August 19, 2024