

Frequent Asked Questions:

What is wrong with the existing jail?

The current jail, completed in 1990, was designed to hold 50 inmates. Through creative, NYS approved variances the jail now has 93 beds, however the utilities and infrastructure was not built to provide for such capacity. As such, the 25-year old infrastructure is now in need of regular and costly repairs. In addition, the County has spent more than \$500,000 per year in recent years in housing inmates in other counties due to our jail already being at maximum capacity.

Where would the new jail/Public Safety Complex go?

A location has yet to be determined. Working with consultants at SMRT Inc., the County will evaluate potential sites, which will need to be approved by the NYS Corrections Commission

How much will the new complex cost, and how will it be paid for?

Phase 1 of the contract with SMRT will cost \$149,000, and these costs will be found within the existing 2015 County Budget. Initial estimates for the new Public Safety Complex are \$38.5 million. While the majority of the cost will be bonded for, significant expenses will be saved through the reduction of housing out and transportation of inmates, as well as the potential for generating revenue by housing inmates from other counties.

Submit a question here: PublicSafetyComplex@cortland-co.org