

Chairman Ung, Vice-Chairman Nelson, Member Taylor, Member Radig and Member Bittinger,

KTIV writes to ask the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to appropriate money to the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Authority to fulfill a records request about delays at the county's new jail project.

The total cost would be \$3,015 as provided by the LEC Authority's latest invoice.

These records are vital to the public's understanding of the project, which is delayed beyond its opening date and is over budget.

Our request seeks emails and other documents about fire dampers, security bars and any other delays that pushed the project past its scheduled completion date.

This is a matter of great importance for the people of Woodbury County, who voted to authorize this project and deserve the maximum amount of transparency.

We do not seek records about other, presumably more minor, issues that may have caused slight delays but did not delay the overall project.

We commit to making these records available to everyone.

Furthermore, as a practical matter, any other media outlet could request and receive at no cost the same materials provided for us.

However, because we believe this matter is of great public interest, we do not oppose the LEC Authority providing the information to all media outlets at the same time.

### **KTIV's Records Request**

We first filed a records request with the LEC Authority on September 5, 2023, and voluntarily narrowed our request on September 6, 2023.

On October 20, 2023, the LEC Authority provided an estimate to charge KTIV \$5,635 for about 1,000 records, equating to about \$5.60 *per record*. In our experience, that estimate is very costly.

After further narrowing of our request, once we dropped the LEC Authority members email addresses from our request, we received an invoice for \$3,015.

This would include only searching the email addresses of Shane Albrecht and Todd Wieck, not the emails of the LEC Authority members themselves.

That invoice includes a \$135 an hour charge for a "senior" IT specialist to search those two emails over three hours.

The invoice also attributes a \$50 an hour cost for "search engine software."

The invoice also includes a cost of \$125 an hour, for eight hours, to gather and collect an unknown number of "non-email docs."

The time period we requested is from May 31, 2023, to the date the LEC Authority produces the records.

Our most narrowed request only asks to search for the following keywords: "Damper," "Security rebar (or re-bar)" and "Delay and Rost (combined)."

### **Conclusion**

In covering the project, we've received great assistance from the City of Sioux City, who has provided us inspection reports from inside the facility at *no cost*.

Additionally, we've received support from each of the LEC Authority members, all of whom have conducted interviews with us.

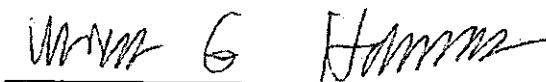
We understand the LEC Authority was not designed to handle FOIA requests. It is regrettable the project is behind schedule, and it's clear legal action of some kind is forthcoming.

However, the public deserves to know what happened at the site.

Sincerely,



Diana Castillo (News Director)



Matt Hoffmann (Investigative Journalist)