

KLICKITAT COUNTY JAIL

2026 OPERATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT

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Inspection Location:

Klickitat County Jail



Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Purpose and Scope of Review
3. Facility Overview
4. Physical Infrastructure and Layout
5. Control Room Operations
6. Leadership and Management
7. Organizational Structure
8. Staffing Levels
9. Staff Culture and Workplace Environment
10. Training and Professional Development
11. Intake and Booking Operations
12. Intake Privacy Improvements
13. Medical Services
14. Recommended Medical Enhancements
15. Safety Monitoring Systems
16. Food Service Operations
17. Emergency Preparedness
18. Security Enhancements
19. Overall Operational Strengths
20. Conclusion

1. Executive Summary

The Klickitat County Jail operational inspection was conducted in 2026 at the request of county leadership and Jail Administrator William (Bill) Frantz. The purpose of the inspection was to evaluate operational practices, facility infrastructure, staffing resources, training systems, emergency preparedness, and the overall ability of the jail to safely supervise incarcerated individuals. The inspection included direct observation of facility operations, staff interviews, review of operational procedures, and examination of physical infrastructure. Overall findings indicate that the Klickitat County Jail operates as a professional, organized, and secure detention facility that demonstrates strong leadership and sound correctional practices.

2. Purpose and Scope of Review

The purpose of this operational inspection was to provide Klickitat County leadership with a comprehensive evaluation of the jail's operational environment following a previous review conducted in 2023. The inspection examined leadership structure, staffing capacity, training programs, intake procedures, medical services, food service operations, security systems, emergency preparedness planning, and workplace culture. The scope of the review also incorporated correctional risk management principles designed to identify operational vulnerabilities while recognizing strengths within the facility.

3. Facility Overview

The Klickitat County Jail was constructed in 1983 and functions as the primary detention facility serving Klickitat County. The jail houses incarcerated individuals arrested within the county and also serves as a temporary holding facility for Washington State Department of Corrections individuals detained for violations of community supervision. The rated capacity of the facility is forty-nine incarcerated individuals. The jail houses both male and female populations in accordance with classification procedures. As a smaller rural detention facility, the jail plays a critical role in supporting the county criminal justice system while maintaining safe and secure custody supervision.

4. Physical Infrastructure and Layout

The facility consists primarily of reinforced concrete construction which provides a durable and secure structural environment suitable for detention operations. Layered internal security controls are present throughout the facility including controlled movement corridors and electronically operated door systems. Static security points and controlled movement pathways allow staff to effectively manage inmate movement within the facility. The jail does not rely on exterior perimeter fencing; instead, confinement security is maintained through reinforced concrete structural barriers combined with sallyport-style entry systems.

5. Control Room Operations

The central control room serves as the operational hub of the facility and is staffed twenty-four hours per day and seven days per week. Control room staff demonstrated familiarity with monitoring systems, facility camera systems, and internal door controls. A shadow board key control system allows staff to track issued keys and quickly identify which staff member has checked out specific keys. The control room also monitors heartbeat monitoring systems located in observation/holding cells, allowing staff to identify medical emergencies or movement irregularities.

6. Leadership and Management

The facility is led by Jail Administrator Bill Frantz who has more than twenty-five years of corrections experience. Mr. Frantz has served in custody leadership roles including facility captain, incident commander, and Special Emergency Response team leader. He has extensive training in defensive tactics, specialty munitions instruction, and emergency response operations. Staff interviews indicate that the facility has experienced improvements in organization, equipment readiness, and operational professionalism during the past twelve months.

7. Organizational Structure

The jail operates under a tiered supervisory structure consisting of the Jail Administrator, a Jail Sergeant acting as shift commander, Corporals serving as first-line supervisors, and correctional officers responsible for custody supervision. Control room staff operate monitoring systems but are not classified as sworn correctional officers. The jail is administered under Klickitat County government and operates independently from the Sheriff's Office command structure.

8. Staffing Levels

The facility operates on a twelve-hour shift schedule designed to provide continuous supervision coverage. Staff indicated that additional relief positions would improve operational flexibility and reduce overtime usage. It is recommended that the county consider adding both relief correctional officer staffing and a nursing resource capable of assisting with routine medical oversight.

9. Staff Culture and Workplace Environment

Staff interactions during the inspection reflected a professional and cooperative work environment. Employees reported positive improvements in communication and operational direction over the past year. Staff appeared engaged, professional, and committed to maintaining appropriate correctional standards within the facility.

Personnel demonstrated awareness of their responsibilities and a willingness to contribute to a safe and orderly detention environment. Overall morale appeared generally positive, and staff interactions reflected a respectable and professional workplace culture. Several staff members did express concerns regarding the current staffing model and the lack of a formal relief factor within the schedule. The facility currently operates on a 12-hour shift schedule divided into three primary work groups. Staff indicated that there is no established relief pool to account for extended absences such as military leave, Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) usage, prolonged illness, or other unforeseen staffing shortages. As a result, staff reported that they are frequently contacted on their regular days off to work overtime in order to fill staffing gaps. While staff acknowledged that supervisors and facility leadership are making efforts to maintain operational coverage, several employees indicated that the lack of relief staffing can place additional strain on personnel over time. Many staff interviewed expressed that the addition of a small relief staffing pool would significantly improve scheduling flexibility, reduce reliance on overtime, and support long-term staff morale.

10. Training and Professional Development

The facility utilizes the National Institute of Jail Operations (NIJO) training system to support ongoing staff training. If the current training plan continues, staff will exceed the required twenty-four hours of annual in-service training. The facility also utilizes daily LEXIPOL policy training bulletins to reinforce policy awareness.

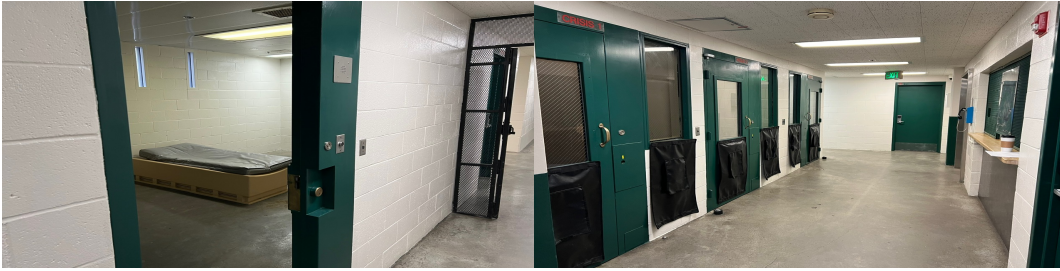


11. Intake and Booking Operations

The intake and booking process begins with a pre-booking assessment designed to identify medical, dental, psychiatric, and safety concerns. A classification system evaluates risk factors including withdrawal symptoms and suicidal behavior. Staff demonstrated familiarity with intake procedures and classification requirements.

12. Intake Privacy Improvements

A minor construction project dividing an adjacent holding cell could create a more private intake environment. This modification would improve communication between staff and individuals being booked while increasing staff observation capability.



13. Medical Services

Medical services are supported by a Physician Assistant who visits the facility on a routine basis. The PA demonstrated familiarity with the correctional environment and works collaboratively with jail administration. Medical communication between custody staff and medical providers appeared coordinated and professional.

14. Recommended Medical Enhancements

Additional medical presence within the facility would strengthen continuity of care and provide incarcerated individuals with more consistent access to medical professionals. Currently, a Physician Assistant provides medical services and conducts rounds at the facility a minimum of two times per month, and at times more frequently as needed. While communication between custody staff and the Physician Assistant appears effective, this level of on-site medical presence is generally below what is considered best practice for many confinement settings throughout the United States. Given the increasing prevalence of drug use, overdose risks, alcohol dependency, and related medical concerns among incarcerated populations nationwide, more frequent medical oversight would be beneficial. Increasing the frequency of medical rounds—potentially through the addition of a nursing resource or expanded medical staffing—would help improve continuity of care, enhance monitoring of individuals experiencing withdrawal or other medical issues, and allow incarcerated individuals additional opportunities to speak directly with medical personnel. It should be noted that the facility maintains effective emergency medical response protocols, and staff demonstrated familiarity with contacting emergency medical services and coordinating with the Physician Assistant when medical issues arise. However, expanding routine medical presence within the facility would further strengthen the overall level of care provided and align the jail more closely with evolving correctional healthcare standards.

15. Safety Monitoring Systems

The facility utilizes monitoring systems designed to alert staff if an incarcerated individual requires medical attention. Heartbeat monitoring systems located in observation cells are monitored continuously through the control room.



16. Food Service Operations

The kitchen and food preparation areas were observed to be exceptionally clean, organized, and well maintained. Kitchen equipment capable of misuse is secured using cabling systems and inventoried daily by correctional staff. Fire suppression systems appeared properly maintained and operational.



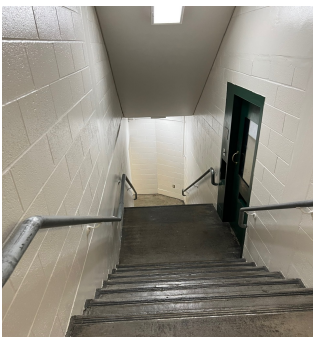
17. Emergency Preparedness

Over the past twelve months, leadership at the Klickitat County Jail has strengthened emergency preparedness through additional staff training and the acquisition of updated protective equipment, cell entry equipment, and specialized transport devices used when moving restrained incarcerated individuals. These resources support both internal facility response operations and external emergency situations when necessary. Additional response equipment and tools have been obtained to improve readiness during critical incidents. Lethal force options are available for use outside the jail environment should a

serious emergency occur requiring rapid response to protect staff or the public. It is recommended that the jail sergeant increase the frequency of on-shift training to ensure staff remain proficient in key operational functions such as control booth operations, multi-point restraint bed placements, wrap restraint use, and emergency procedures. Continued training in fire response and evacuation protocols is also recommended to ensure staff readiness during events that may threaten the structural integrity of the facility. As part of emergency preparedness planning, it is important that outside emergency responders—including fire departments, EMS, sheriff's deputies, and Washington State Patrol—have a reliable method to access emergency entry keys for the jail. Currently, emergency keys are stored only within the secure perimeter of the facility. For this reason, it is recommended that an additional set of emergency entry keys be secured externally in a controlled location accessible to authorized emergency responders. This would allow emergency personnel to access the facility during situations such as power loss, emergency entry needs, or other critical incidents while maintaining appropriate security safeguards.

18. Security Enhancements

One recommended security improvement for the Klickitat County Jail is restoring the secondary internal security door protecting the control room. The control room serves as the central operational hub of the facility, housing critical systems such as door controls, camera monitoring, communications, and alarm functions. Protecting this area through layered security is essential to maintaining the integrity of the facility. During the inspection, it appeared that the control room was originally constructed with a two-door security entry configuration. At some point the secondary internal door was removed for unknown reasons. Reinstalling this door would significantly strengthen the facility's security posture. A double-layered security barrier around control rooms is a standard correctional design principle. It creates a time-delay barrier that prevents unauthorized access and provides staff additional time to respond to potential threats. Without this secondary barrier, an unexpected attempt by an incarcerated individual to access the control room could create a serious security vulnerability. Restoring a second door would slow unauthorized entry and provide valuable response time for staff to secure the area and maintain control of the facility's security systems. A reinforced metal-frame security door or similar barrier would be sufficient to restore this protective layer and help ensure that the Jail's primary control center remains protected.



19. Overall Operational Strengths

The Klickitat County Jail operates as a well organized and professionally managed small detention facility. Leadership, staff professionalism, and security awareness appear strong. No major operational risks were identified during the inspection.



20. Conclusion

The Klickitat County Jail operates as a stable and professionally managed detention facility serving both the surrounding community and the broader criminal justice system within the State of Washington. Throughout the course of this operational inspection, the facility was observed to be clean, organized, secure, and operating under strong safety and security standards consistent with professional correctional practices. Staff members demonstrated professionalism, awareness of their duties, and a clear commitment to maintaining a safe and orderly custody environment. Interactions with staff reflected a cooperative and engaged workforce that takes pride in the responsibilities associated with operating a county detention facility. Personnel appeared knowledgeable regarding facility procedures, security expectations, and the importance of maintaining professional conduct while working within a correctional environment. Leadership within the facility appears strong and structured, with Jail Administrator William (Bill) Frantz providing experienced guidance and direction. His background in correctional operations, training, and leadership has contributed to continued improvements within the facility over the past year. Staff feedback indicated that organizational direction and operational consistency have improved under current leadership. From an operational perspective, the Klickitat County Jail compares favorably with similarly sized detention facilities throughout Washington State and across the United States. Security practices appear sound, facility operations are well structured, and staff demonstrate a professional approach to custody supervision. No immediate security concerns were identified during the inspection that would require urgent corrective action. The overall operational environment reflects a facility that is functioning effectively within its current design and staffing structure. While the facility is operating well overall, several opportunities exist for continued improvement that would further strengthen the jail's operational environment. Areas for potential growth include continued refinement of intake and assessment procedures, expanded medical oversight for incarcerated individuals, and enhanced mental health resources to support both stabilization during incarceration and appropriate referral resources upon release. These

Klickitat County Jail | 2026 Operational Inspection Report

improvements would contribute to stronger continuity of care and reinforce the jail's role in supporting both public safety and humane custody practices. With continued attention to these areas and the ongoing commitment of leadership and staff, the Klickitat County Jail is well positioned to maintain a professional, secure, and effective correctional environment.

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Signature: *Jeremy Wise*

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