Idaho Sheriffs' Association

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March 16, 2026

Sheriff Andy Creech
Payette County Sheriff's Office
1130 Third Avenue North Room #101
Payette, ID 83661

Re: 2026 Jail Inspection

Dear Sheriff Creech:

I completed the inspection of your jail on March 16, 2026. Thanks to Lt. McDonald and Sgt. Crimin for their help in completing the inspection paperwork and the tour of the facility. Any areas that are not in compliance with the Idaho Jail Standards are listed towards the end of this document.

The first item reviewed was a checklist of all of the Standards. This allowed Lieutenant McDonald the opportunity to self-report areas where the jail is not in compliance.

I looked at the work schedules for the months of February, May, August, and November. The work schedule for the detention deputies showed that you always had a minimum of at least two deputies scheduled for every shift in the facility.

I reviewed policies dealing with reporting of use of force, Prohibiting the use of inmates for medical testing, Inmate mail, Inmate access to attorneys and legal representation, and inmate workers. All of the policies reviewed are in compliance with the Idaho Jail Standards.

One of the items requested to preview was the Average Daily Population reports for each month during the past calendar year. I noted that you had 221 days where your facility exceeded 69 inmates. This more than 60% of the time you exceeded your capacity. That does not take into account when one or more housing units were over capacity while the total number remained at or below 69. At the time of the inspection, the jail was holding 76 inmates. The average daily population over the past year was 72.21. Your reported average cost per inmate bed per day for fiscal year 2024-2025 was $87.42 This is only 76.5% of the state average of $114.25.

The Payette City Fire Department inspected your facility on February 12, 2025. There were no violations noted. The fire sprinkler suppression system was inspected on March 14, 2025, and the fire alarm system was inspected on October 6-7, 2025. All systems passed. I requested and

received a copy of the Fire Safety Officer's reports for January, April, August, and November of 2025. Sergeant Crimin completed the January inspection report and noted that there was no fire safety inspection done in April due to the Academy. This is contrary to Jail Standard 6.03.01 that requires monthly fire safety inspections. Deputy Naillon completed the August and November reports as your Fire Safety Officer. The new fire safety officer is Deputy Towner. In both the August and November reports it was noted that the outlet cover in the chow hall was missing screws. I did take note that a good number of the extension cords that had been used as permanent wiring had been removed and electrical conduit and boxes had taken their place. The only extension cord I saw in use was for a medical device that an inmate was using.

Fire drills were conducted on September 28 and again on September 30, 2025. The drills appear to have included a total of nine deputies, plus the Fire Safety Officer, Sergeant Crimin. The documentation was well done. It was explained that the Fire Department and/or EMS were not actually involved and their participation was simulated. This is contrary to Jail Standard 6.03.02 that requires fire department/EMS participation in at least one drill annually. Of your current staff, only one deputy who is on light duty and Lt. McDonald did not participate in a drill.

Based on the training records I received, it appears that all of your current detention staff are up to date on their minimum training requirements.

Your food service is provided by Summit Correctional Services. Summit's dietitian, Jessica Waldner, confirmed, in a letter dated January 27, 2026, that the menu supplies the dietary needs as stated in the Jail Standards. Southwest District Health inspected your facility on November 24, 2025. There were no violations noted. When I toured the facility, I noted a couple of different food containers in the walk-in cooler that had not been tagged and dated. One contained what appeared to be cooked rice while the other containers contained what appeared to be celery and on either side of carrots that were properly marked.


UNDATED RICE



UNDATED CELERY

I reviewed the security check logs for the following dates in 2025: April 20, May 26, July 4, November 11and December 25. April 20th showed 17 violations of the 60 minute maximum standard between security checks. The other dates all showed as being compliant. I asked for the security check logs for April 19 and 21 to insure that this one date was an anomaly and not a practice. April 19, 2025, showed no violations of the 60-minute maximum standard, however, April 21, 2025, showed 11 violations of the 60-minute standard.

You did not have any Special Security Checks that needed to be completed between the dates requested, July 22 through July 29, 2025.

The medical services contract continues to be with Dr. Sean Hackett which covers all of the necessary medical services for your facility. An updated contract was signed in January, 2026.

I reviewed the food menu for inmate food service for December 7-13, 2025. There were no two days in the seven day period where the exact same meal was served. This complies with the Jail Standard and the Federal Court of Idaho settlement with the Idaho Department of Corrections.

During the course of my inspection, I first interviewed Lt. McDonald. He explained that he has been the jail commander for over seven years. Lt. McDonald confirmed that the average daily population for the past calendar year was just over 72 inmates per day. He added that most days the jail was over capacity, and even more days the jail had at least one housing unit over capacity.

Lieutenant McDonald confirmed that there is never less than two deputies on duty in the jail at any time but that two is the minimum staffing allowed in the jail.

He also explained that in order to keep the security checks relatively random, but yet timely, there is an alarm that goes off about every 30 minutes to remind the deputies to do their rounds. In order to keep the security checks relatively random, he further explained that deputies do the security checks in reverse order or sometimes split the checks so they are not consistently done in the same order.

I asked Lt. McDonald what the biggest item he learned from the last fire drill that they had held. He explained that the biggest issue learned from the last fire drill was that the staff is very young, both in age and in life experience. This causes some confusion and a lack of knowing exactly what to do. I also asked the Lieutenant what he though was lacking in training for new deputies. He immediately stated that getting newly hired detention deputies into the P.O.S.T. Academy is difficult in a timely manner. He added that over the past year, they have worked hard at bringing good training into the facility and sponsored by the Sheriff's Office.

I asked Lt. McDonald how the deputies were trained to enforce the inmate rules. He explained that new deputies are first instructed to read the policy and procedures manual, then read the inmate handbook so they know what rules the inmates are supposed to abide by. He further explained that a supervisor may have to re-enforce the appropriate actions for a deputy to take in response to a violation of those rules.

I asked about the key management policy for the jail. Lt. McDonald explained that they have two systems. The old part of the jail has keys that are kept in a key box and are signed our for each shift. The new part of the jail has keys that are issued to each deputy.

My final question for Lt. McDonald was if there was anything else I needed to know about the jail. He said that they are very overcrowded and they need a new facility badly.

I next interviewed Sgt. Crimin. He told me that he has worked for the Payette County Jail for about five and a half years. He confirmed that there are always at least two deputies on each shift, but not always a female deputy on each shift. He further explained that when a female deputy is not available, the female dispatchers will help out with searching incoming female inmates.

Sgt. Crimin also confirmed the overcrowding situation, estimating that at least one housing unit is overcrowded 99% of the time.

I gave Sgt. Crimin a scenario of doing security checks and finding an inmate hanging from a sheet at the end of a bunk and asked him what he would do. He replied that he would radio for the other deputy, and ask dispatch to send medical, he would then try to lift the inmate up to take the weight off of the ligature and cut the knot. He would perform first aid / CPR as needed until medical arrived. He would then make sure that the Lieutenant was notified of the incident.

Sgt. Crimin explained that the last fire safety training they received occurred in either September or October and involved evacuations of inmates.

Sgt. Crimin explained that they do security checks approximately every thirty (30) minutes and to make them as irregular as possible, he takes a different route each time.

I asked Sgt. Crimin how an inmate who had never been to the Payette County Jail before became oriented to the facility and its operations. He told me that many items are explained during the booking process and that the inmates are referred to the inmate handbook that is available in each housing unit.

I also asked Sgt. Crimin what the biggest complaint he hears from inmates about medical treatment. He explained that the one issue is confirming that they are truly on medications before the medical provider can see the inmate and confirm any previous prescriptions. This is particularly a problem with suboxone.

I asked a similar question about complaints about the food. He relayed that since they have a new kitchen manager from Summit Correctional Services, there have been no complaints about the food.

I asked several questions about procedures that are listed in the Jail Standards and Sgt. Crimin was able to explain each one in compliance with the respective standards.

When asked what part of the jail needed to be repaired the most, he said that the lack of natural light in some of the housing units needed to be a priority.

In closing, Sgt. Crimin expressed frustration with the overcrowding situation that is primarily due to the Idaho Department of Corrections not taking inmates sentenced to their facilities in a timely manner.

I then interviewed two inmates, separately. One was male and the other female. Both had been in the facility before, and one had been in custody this time for about 14 months while the other for about three months. They both agreed that there are at least two deputies on each shift, while one said that there is not always a female deputy on duty, while the other said that there was.

Both inmates explained that they had been asked about their medical history when they were booked into the jail, both had seen a medical professional within a week of arriving and both could explain how to request to see a medical provider while in custody.

Even though they both could explain the evacuation routes from their housing units in case of an emergency, one told me that they did not know it. Both admitted that there were maps in the housing units that explained the route, but the one inmate said that they had not taken the time to really look at the map.

Both inmates were very aware of the zero-tolerance policy against sexual assault, abuse, or harassment, both said that they had been made aware during the initial booking process, through pamphlets they had received and through information on the kiosk in the housing units. Both could describe different methods of reporting such illicit activity if necessary. Both inmates said that they feel safe in the facility.

One inmate said that no one was in a temporary bunk, commonly called a ‘boat’ at this time, while the other inmate said that three ‘boats’ were currently being used in their housing area.

Both inmates reported that deputies generally check on them about every thirty minutes. They both said that the deputies are polite and appropriately interact with the inmates. When asked about those checks after lights out, both inmates said that the deputies try to be quiet but still make checks about every half hour.

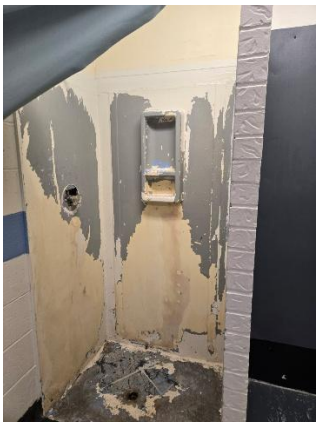
Both inmates said that they have the ability to shower daily, and clothing is exchanged every other day.

When I asked what else they thought I should know, one told me that the jail needs to purchase new uniforms as the current ones are pretty worn out. The other complimented the staff and said that it is an easy jail to be in as long as you do what you are told.

Sgt. Crimin then helped me tour the facility. We first went by holding cells. One of note, which was occupied by a recent arrestee, had a floor drain cover that appeared to have been pried up. There was a stench of raw sewage in the cell. Sgt. Crimin explained that it is supposed to be plugged and concreted over but has not been done yet. This is obviously not sanitary, and the metal cover could be a hazard for the cell occupant.



I also noted that in the intake area, the shower that was originally designed for incoming inmates to shower is unusable. Incoming inmates must be taken elsewhere in the facility to shower and change into jail clothes. The original shower is in dire condition.



As we toured the facility, I took note that several of the shower areas had broken tiles. This is a hazard for those using the shower and broken tiles can easily be used as a cutting weapon.







I later learned that Lt. McDonald had previously purchased heavy-duty rubber mats for the showers, but they had obviously never been put in place.

I also noted, particularly in the older part of the jail, there were issues with the one-piece toilet and sink combinations. They were reported to splash water out of the toilets when they are flushed, causing water to accumulate on the floor. Stains around the toilet/sink units confirm this report. Additionally, there was a good amount of evidence of leaking faucets and valves. The hard water stains and calcium deposits showed the problem here.

One item that became known from an inmate in the older portion of the jail was that the inmate had to plug the sink with a piece of cloth due to the sewer gases coming up through the drain pipes.

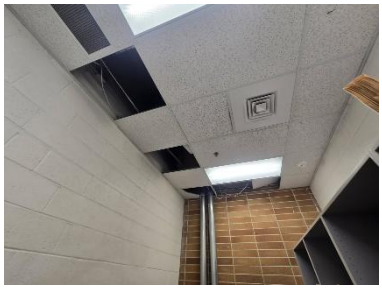




Another area of concern was in the laundry area. It is quite apparent there is a water leak problem near the washing machines or the washing machine drains. There were blankets on the floor that was there to either dam the water or soak it up. The blankets appeared to be very wet. Not only is the leak an issue, but the wet blankets on the floor are a hazard for tripping as well as a source of mold and mildew buildup.



Another concern was the missing ceiling tiles in the library room that is located just off of the dining hall. This is a fire code violation.



The Payette County Jail, first built in 1972, has outlived its useful life.
The overcrowding and physical problems with the facilities are directly related to the Idaho Jail Standards. The lack of adequate office space, storage space, and general work areas compound the problems. In its current condition, I do not see how the current Payette County Jail will ever pass a jail inspection.

A total of Mandatory Standards out of compliance: 7

6.03.01 The fire safety officer conducts monthly fire safety inspections of the facility.

6.03.02 The fire safety officer schedules and coordinates one fire drill annually that includes fire and medical response to the facility. In addition, all employees must receive fire safety training annually.

7.02 Facility employees physically observe all inmates at least every sixty (60) minutes on an irregular schedule and the time of all such checks is to be logged. (M) (Revised 3/25)

10.07 All plumbing, lighting, ventilation equipment, furnishings, and security hardware in inmate living areas are kept in good working order and any broken fixture, equipment, furnishings, or hardware is promptly repaired or replaced as soon as practical.

18.01 The facility has a rated capacity established in accordance with these Standards. Except in emergencies, the total number of inmates in each cell or housing unit does not exceed its rated capacity. The number of inmates which may be housed in a particular cell or room, housing unit, or facility is based upon available square footage, sanitary fixtures, and other physical plant features as specified in these Standards.

18.12 Temporary holding cells provide at least twenty-five (25) square feet of floor space per occupant but are not smaller than forty (40) square feet. Occupants have access to toilets, lavatory with hot and cold water, and an immediate source of fresh potable water.

18.13 Detoxification cells shall provide at least twenty-five (25) square feet of floor space per occupant but are no smaller than forty (40) square feet. Occupants have access to toilets, lavatory with hot and cold water, and an immediate source of fresh potable water.

Total of Recommended Standards out of compliance: 1

18.05 All inmate living areas should provide visual access to natural light, unless prohibited by security concerns.

18.23 Adequate space is allocated for, but not limited to, the following functions: a. Deputy stations and workstations b. Food service c. Medical service d. Laundry e. Storage for inmate clothing, bedding, facility supplies f. Secure storage of chemical agents, weapons, and security devices g. Housekeeping and maintenance.

Based upon the jail inspection and finding multiple mandatory standards out of compliance, I regret that I must recommend the Payette County Jail for a non-compliance designation for the Idaho Jail Standards for 2025-2026.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

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