

Western Tidewater Regional Jail Gets No-Tax Upgrade to Facilities

The Western Tidewater Regional Jail will soon replace outdated lighting and water systems with more energy-efficient equipment and the upgrades will come at no cost to taxpayers.

This month, Suffolk, Franklin and Isle of Wight County - the jail authority's three member jurisdictions - authorized the financing of a \$4.7 million energy performance contract with Siemens, the company that will oversee the work.

The changes are expected to save the jail about \$300,000 to \$400,000 a year. Under a state energy performance program through the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, the jail will pay off its loan for the improvements using the money it saves on energy costs. If the savings don't match what the contractor guaranteed, the contractor must make up the difference.

The jail will have 15 years to repay its loan.

Western Tidewater Regional Jail opened in 1992, and a majority of its systems are more than 20 years old, Smith said. The planned upgrades include changing the lighting to LEDs and switching to an ozone laundry system, which is commonly used in hotels and hospitals.

Toilets in each cell will be equipped with an electronic flushing system that uses less water.

Work is expected to about nine months.



Old Boilers



New Boilers