



Jackson County Detention Center

Office of the Jackson County Sheriff
Sheriff Darryl Forté



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By Gsciara at 2:45 pm, Jun 26, 2025

To: Director Knapp
From: Deloris Wells, Deputy Director of Corrections- *Deloris Wells*
CC: Sheriff Darryl Forte, Michael Montgomery, Ronald Fletcher, Whitney Miller, Barbara Casamento, Sylvia Stevenson, Bob Crutsinger
Date: June 18, 2025
Subject: Ordinance 5980

In response to the memo submitted on behalf of Trinity Food Services to the Legislature, I would like to provide clarity. In December of 2023, I spoke to the Regional Sales Director, Jacque Woosley, regarding the company's need to increase the cost of service to match the changes in the economy. I reached out to the Director of Purchasing and was advised that we would need to rebid the contract to increase the price. Trinity was provided that information and we began the process of preparing the RFP.

Trinity's price per meal submitted is \$1.74 and Aramark's price per meal submitted is \$1.87. In the memo to the Legislature, Trinity referenced a difference in price totaling \$380,000.00, which is not accurate. There is a .13 cent difference in price which is approximately \$134,283.50, based on the average inmate population count and staff meals referenced in the memo.

We would have had to ask the Legislature for an increase in funding, even if Trinity was awarded the contract to cover the full annual cost of services due to the annual increase in the contract price.

The original scoring document was incorrect. One of the newest members of the panel did not enter the numbers representing her scores accurately. Upon speaking with her she explained that she understood the scoring process, yet her score did not reflect that understanding. She was instructed to correct the submission. Later in the process it was brought to my attention that the entry was not corrected due to the file being locked. I contacted Purchasing and we removed all the scores submitted by this panel member since the entries were not correct.

In my recommendation memo, (before the scores were updated), I made it clear that Aramark was not the cheapest bid, however, we cannot value price over safety. We have an elevated concern regarding the ongoing staff shortage which is increasingly impacting our ability to maintain a safe work environment. Due to insufficient personnel, critical tasks are either delayed, rushed, or inadequately supervised. This issue has been ongoing since 2022.



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Trinity requested a rebid of the contract. It appears that they assumed they would automatically be given the award despite their inability to adequately meet the established criteria in four years, so long as they bid the lowest price for services.

We have been meeting with Trinity since 2022, about this concern, and to date they have not been able to come close to the required staffing numbers. Trinity should have thirteen employees. Most days there are one to three people on shift and weekends it is often only one.

Trinity has been a very responsive vendor, very attentive to our requests, but we are constantly repairing and replacing equipment because the inmates are not being properly supervised. Although they have offered the cheapest price, they have had more than three years to adequately staff this facility, and they have not come close. They sent a new associate to establish the culinary program during the RFP process in 2024, nearly three years after being awarded the contract.

Trinity requested that we rebid the contract which would create undue hardship for everyone involved. They have irrefutably proven they are the best bidder, but they have not been able to adequately staff this operation, which has resulted in operational challenges and raised concerns regarding service quality and safety. Despite numerous discussions and opportunities to address the issue, staffing levels have remained below acceptable standards.

Trinity referenced being asked to continue providing services until September, the contract extension for Trinity was submitted to the Legislature and was held for months due to budget issues. The Ordinance to award the contract to Aramark was submitted in March but it was not addressed by the Legislature until this past week due to budget issues.

Ninety days is a reasonable request for a successful transition for both vendors.