

visitation facility

BY FRITZ KLUG
FKLUG@MLIVE.COM

KALAMAZOO — The building that will house video visitation for the Kalamazoo County Jail expansion will cost \$1 million more than expected, and the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners agreed Tuesday to pursue design plans

tion and parole, will cost an expected \$5.5 million, up from \$4.5 million that was projected last year.

The board did not vote on an actionable item related to the building; however, the board did support it informally.

Kalamazoo County Deputy Administrator John Faul said the cost increased after pricing out the materials and mechanical side of the project.

The building will be located on 4.3 acres of property of

ster and Eckert-Wordell, will draw the plans.

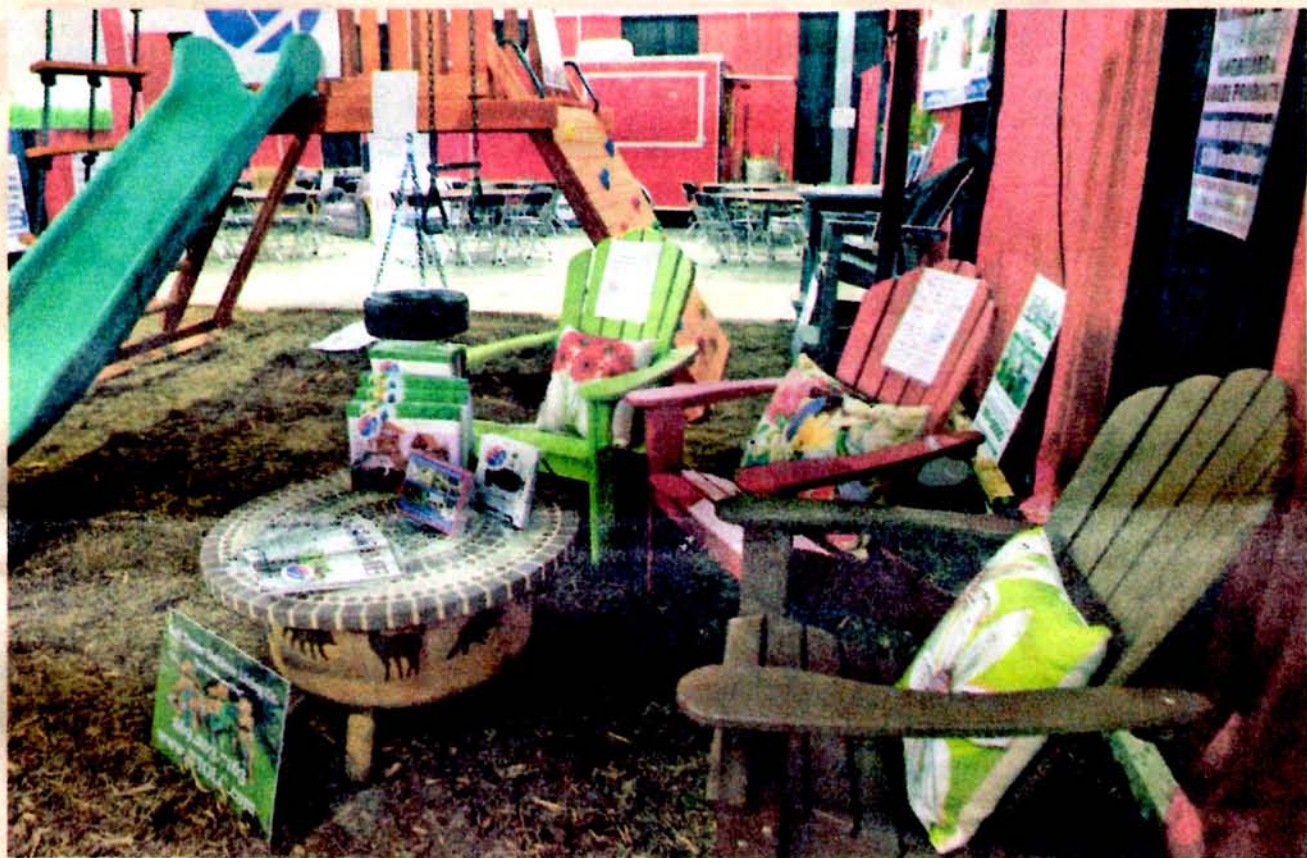
If approved, demolition on the current building would begin in the next month and the video visitation set up by August or September. The other offices would be occupied by January.

Faul also presented another option on Tuesday: build a structure to house video visitation and the office of community correction, which would reduce the price to \$3.5 million.

term facility master plan and the closeness to the jail increases efficiencies for the sheriff's office.

The money for the project will come from the county's capital improvement fund.

The building is part of a far-reaching facilities master plan that includes a new \$25 million family court building. The county also plans to move many of its operations across the county as part of its facilities master plan.



JAMES BUCK | MLIVE.COM

An outdoor display by Bell Tower Outdoor Living Co. The Kalamazoo Home Expo opened Wednesday with hundreds of exhibitor booths in Portage.

HOME EXPO OPENS

BY KAYLA HAMPTON
KHAMPTON@MLIVE.COM

KALAMAZOO — The 2013 Kalamazoo Home Expo opened its doors on Wednesday evening to present hundreds of exhibits to local homeowners and home builders, and there still are three days to get in on the action.

The expo, which is organized by the Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo, is scheduled through

Saturday, and it provides attendees with ideas, product information and educational sessions concerning home improvement and design.

"If you are going to invest in your home, you need to choose the right professional, and the expo is a good opportunity to learn more so you can make a good decision," Amanda Kuchnicki, the expo's marketing director, said.

The family friendly event also includes many activities for children,

such as coloring book stations, a playground surrounded by mulch, a drawing for a double trampoline, and a koi pond created by R & A Water Features and Landscaping that provides kids the opportunity to feed the fish by hand.

With exhibits ranging from kitchen cabinets created by Amish woodworking companies to a station that allows participants to send a message to the troops, a wealth of information

SEE EXPO, A2