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Improving Asset Management and Operations in Correctional Institutions

Correctional institutions are focused on ensuring the health, safety and security of prisoners, staff, and visitors – all while meeting government regulations, managing aging infrastructure, and navigating chronic understaffing.

Federal regulations require prisons and jails to "be operated in [a] decent, humane, and safe manner". This not only includes the buildings and grounds, but the equipment that operates many of the services required such as recreation, sanitation, food and health services.

Many of these assets are already aged requiring additional maintenance to keep them running. And capital investments necessary to replace these assets are often at the mercy of limited budgets and competing priorities.

Brightly Software recognizes these challenges. That's why we help corrections agencies move to an asset and work-centric system that makes it easier to streamline regular maintenance activities, simplify compliance, and access reliable data to make the right investments at the right time.

Start with foundational data

Many corrections departments rely on reactive maintenance, responding to failures as they happen – often at 30% higher costs than planned maintenance. This can disrupt budget, extend downtime, and increase risks. To shift toward a more proactive approach, facilities teams need a solid foundation of asset data.

Key steps to building a data foundation:

- Track and document all infrastructure and assets
- Establish asset relationships and hierarchy
- Record location, replacement costs, and useful life
- Assess condition, criticality, and risk
- Link inventory to assets for automated procurement
- Ensure data is accessible for analysis and system integration

Strengthen foundational data with a CMMS

A CMMS helps organizations balance reactive and proactive maintenance by improving assignment, tracking, and scheduling of maintenance work orders, while passively collecting maintenance history for each asset when integrated with an asset registry.

It can also:

- Centralize and prioritize maintenance requests
- Automate preventive maintenance scheduling
- Provide transparency on work order status
- Equip staff with mobile access to work orders and asset details
- Track inventory needs and maintenance costs
- Generate analytics on maintenance operations and capacity

Use foundational and CMMS data to improve long-term planning

The largest corrections agency expenses are housed in the capital budget. To meet regulations, corrections departments must utilize these resources strategically.

A data-driven, asset-centric approach improves capital planning by:

- Automatically updating estimated useful life of assets through preventive and corrective maintenance data from your CMMS
- Leveraging data to compare alternative funding scenarios based on current and projected budgets
- Estimating the ideal timing and costs of necessary replacements
- Developing long-term plans (5-20 years) to optimize funding strategies

A complete asset management and operations system

When these elements are collectively integrated, corrections departments have the data they need to make more informed maintenance and investment decisions, as well as:

- Lower costs by reducing the risk for emergency repairs which often cost 30% more than proactive maintenance
- Reduce the paperwork burden of ACA and fire safety compliance, and protect against liability claims
- Increase their chances of being able to operate even during an emergency (equipment failures, overlooked inventory, etc.)
- Save time with automated inventory and smart scheduling
- Better manage risk through proper categorization of assets and work orders

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