

GUARD TOWERS, FENCES PLANNED AT RYAN FACILITY

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Author: ZACHARE BALL AND L.A. JOHNSON , Free Press Staff Writers

The state will install guard towers, erect more fences and monitor prisoner calls at the Ryan Regional Correctional Facility to prevent escapes like the large Aug. 21 breakout.

Dan Bolden, a Department of Corrections deputy director, said Tuesday he didn't know when the towers would be built, because officials are working on site plans.

On Tuesday, corrections officials and Detroit police officials met with the Detroit City Council to discuss the escape by 10 prisoners -- Michigan's biggest breakout in 70 years. Also Tuesday, the eight prisoners captured since the escape made their first joint court appearance.

Council members and city residents said they would prefer the facility be closed, rather than improved, but admitted there is little they can do.

"We don't want guard towers," said Councilwoman Kay Everett. "This is not Jackson; this is not Ionia."

The state will spend about \$2 million on guard towers and fencing at the Ryan facility and the neighboring Mound Regional Correctional Facility on the city's east side.

But it probably won't reimburse the city the \$1 million spent in overtime for Detroit police who worked to recapture the men.

"There have been no requests made, so it's not under consideration," said John Truscott, spokesman for Gov. John Engler. "If they want to bill us for that cost, then they should pay us for the state police that patrol the highways. We provide all the road patrols for the city and do that voluntarily."

Council members said they want the state to reimburse the city. Emmett Baylor, assistant to Mayor Dennis Archer for public safety, said the mayor will decide whether to press for it.

Making their first joint appearance in court Tuesday, the eight Ryan prison escapees laughed, joked and practically cheered when 36th District Court Magistrate Izetta Bright set their bonds at \$100,000 cash each.

"Thank you, your honor," one said.

"That seems kind of light, isn't it?" another chimed in.

Under heavy armed guard and wearing handcuffs, ankle chains and prison uniforms, the eight chuckled as they were herded out of the courtroom. Officers had to ask them to quiet down.

The magistrate arraigned Monty Matthews, 26; Pierre Porter, 26; Andre Gamble, 29; **Mark McCloud** , 27; Willie Merriweather, 40; David Whitaker, 33; Marvin Johnson, 29, and Lavell Jones, 31, on prison escape charges. Whitaker and Johnson also face kidnapping charges for commandeering Detroit's Geraldine Artley's station wagon -- with Artley and her 8-year-old son in tow -- shortly after they escaped.

Prison escape is a five-year felony. Kidnapping is punishable by up to life in prison. Any punishments would be added to their existing sentences.

The eight are being held at the State Prison of Southern Michigan at Jackson pending their next court appearance Oct. 18.

They were captured within 10 days of the escape. The ninth escapee, Kevin Hatcher, 28, was found dead from a drug overdose Aug. 22. The 10th escapee, Tyrone Garland, remains at large.

Anyone with information about Garland's whereabouts should call the Detroit Police violent crimes task force at 1-800-752-1241 anytime.

Caption: Photo ALAN R. KAMUDA

: Tyrone Garland Eight prisoners who escaped in August from the Ryan Regional Correctional Facility in Detroit appear for arraignment Tuesday in 36th District Court. Afterward, they were returned to the State Prison of Southern Michigan pending their next court appearance Oct. 18. Another escapee, Kevin Hatcher died of a drug overdose shortly after the breakout; the 10th, Tyrone Garland, remains at large.

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