GOVERNOR’S BUDGET HEARING — DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Budget Hearing. On December 10, 2018, Governor Kim Reynolds held a budget hearing for the Department of Corrections. Director Jerry Bartruff presented the Department budget request for FY 2020 as summarized in an earlier Fiscal Update Article. During the presentation, Director Bartruff discussed the following items:

- Director Bartruff announced his retirement as Director of the Department of Corrections (DOC) at the end of the month. Director Bartruff has worked for the DOC for 36 years and served as Director for three years.
- Since FY 2013, the prison population has steadily increased from 8,114 to 8,469. In FY 2018, the male prison population increased by 100 inmates and the female prison population decreased by nine inmates compared to FY 2017. Recidivism rates have been trending upward in the last eight fiscal years, with a 37.8% recidivism rate during the period from FY 2015 through FY 2018.
- During FY 2017 and FY 2018, there has been a decreasing trend in assaults on staff in the DOC institutions. In FY 2016, there were 140 total assaults compared to 96 total assaults on staff this past fiscal year.
- Director Bartruff highlighted the 227 completed apprenticeships since the inception of the apprenticeship program at the DOC institutions.
- In FY 2018, methamphetamine was the primary drug involved in new drug prison admissions. Marijuana and cocaine admissions were the second and third highest respectively.

Department Request. The Department submitted an FY 2020 request for General Fund appropriations totaling $381.8 million. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2019.

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