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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2023

**Meeting.** The Board of Corrections met on September 22, 2023, at the Department of Corrections (DOC) Central Office. Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the DOC [website](#).

**Board Meeting Location.** The Board approved holding future meetings at the DOC Central Office until further notice because there is a more reliable Internet connection and more space for audience members at the Central Office than at the institutions.

**Director's Update.** Director Beth Skinner provided the following updates:

- In August 2023, DOC leadership met separately with the institutions' wardens and the Community-Based Corrections (CBC) district directors for goal-setting exercises. The wardens and district directors will meet next week for a joint goals and strategy discussion now that both the institutions and the CBC district departments are aligned in one system.
- In August 2023, the DOC had a booth at the Iowa State Fair for employee recruitment. Staff from across the DOC volunteered to work at the booth, and many individuals stopped by to learn about the DOC's work.
- The DOC has hired new employees for the Health Services Administrator and Mental Health Director positions.
- The DOC recently received a National Institute of Corrections peer support technical assistance grant to assist in creating a more robust wellness program.
- The consulting firm Guidehouse and the Alliance for Community and Justice Innovation are assisting the DOC with improving DOC culture through a two- to three-year initiative.
- The DOC is conducting interviews for the Deputy of Prison Operations position.

**FY 2025 Budget Request.** Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, detailed the proposed FY 2025 DOC budget request. The proposed request is a status quo budget. The General Fund budget request totals approximately \$430.4 million. The only change from the FY 2024 budget is between line items to distribute Department-wide duties funds to the institutions, the CBC district departments, the Central Office, and county confinement. Additionally, the DOC is requesting approximately \$14.8 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and \$5.0 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF) for FY 2025. The Board approved all requests.

**Public Comments.** Members of the public expressed concerns about the process for committing individuals to the Sexually Violent Predator program, a lack of programming in Iowa's institutions in recent years, volunteer programming not returning to the institutions after the COVID-19 pandemic, a difficulty in contacting Board members, and issues with the Newton Correctional Facility (NCF). Board members expressed appreciation for the public comments and that the members hope to discuss how improvements can be made.

**Next Meeting.** The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2023, at the DOC Central Office.

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