
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 8, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2024

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met virtually on September 27, 2024. Meeting materials and a recording of the meeting are available through the Department of Corrections (DOC) [website](#).

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

- Jen Rathje is the new DOC Legislative Liaison. She was previously with the Department of Education.
- June: A feedback forum and discussion with staff occurred in Anamosa, and on June 20th, the employee recognition ceremony was conducted.
- July: The 2nd District held a feedback forum with Director Skinner. Iowa Prison Industries and Homes for Iowa, Inc. announced with the Governor the building of five new homes for disaster-impacted communities. All districts held events to support and thank their staff during the annual Pretrial, Probation, and Parole Supervision Week.
- August: The DOC participated at the Iowa State Fair which helped support staff recruitment and community engagement. Director Skinner took a site visit of the 5th District and a tour of Fort Des Moines and spoke with staff.
- September: The Correctional Emergency Response Team (CERT) Challenge took place at Brushy Creek State Park on September 18. Director Skinner congratulated Fort Dodge Correctional Facility as the winner, and all the professionals who competed in the challenge.

FY 2026 Budget Request. Steve Dick, Fiscal Manager, detailed the proposed FY 2026 budget request. The proposed General Fund budget is a status quo request with a total of approximately \$442.3 million. The DOC is requesting approximately \$22.8 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and \$3.4 million from the Technology Reinvestment Fund (TRF) for FY 2026.

Action Item — Newton Correctional Facility Farmland Sale. Bob Fairfax, Deputy Director in charge of the Prison Industry Program for the DOC, discussed the proposed sale of farmland surrounding the Newton Correctional Facility. Farmers National has the contract for the division of four tracts of 1,326 acres, valued together between \$8.5 million and \$9.5 million based on market at the time of sale. The Board approved the sale.

Public Comments. Members of the public expressed concerns about policy on solitary confinement, air conditioning at the Anamosa and Mt. Pleasant facilities, the Pigeonly mail service contract, DOC collaboration for reintegration resources, institution arts-based programming, the multidisciplinary team referrals to the Attorney General's Office, and the medical care of incarcerated persons. Board members expressed appreciation for the public comments.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2024, at the DOC Central Office.

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Doc ID 1462706