



Iowa Department of Corrections

Response to

Joint Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

February 19, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to present our Department of Corrections (DOC) budget to you on February 9, 2016. Below are the outstanding questions and our response.

Question: The FY 2015 Institution expenditures were \$224.4 million for personal services; \$35.2 million food, medical, and housing; and \$19.9 million for other support. What do these categories include?

Response: Personal services includes the costs of salaries and benefits such as the employer's share of costs for health, life, dental and disability insurance, and federal withholding. Food, medical, and housing costs include food, drugs, communications, utilities, professional and housing supplies, and outside services. Other support includes the remaining support budget line items, such as travel, office and information technology equipment, office and equipment maintenance supplies, and uniforms.

Question: What steps does the DOC take to keep staff and offenders safe?

Response: Staff safety is the top priority. The DOC uses its resources as effectively and efficiently as possible to maintain staff and long term public safety by focusing on recidivism. The DOC needs to maintain the staff it currently has. The Governor has recommended \$5.7 million above the department's current budget, to maintain existing staff within the nine institutions and the eight district departments of correctional services. The DOC also takes the following steps to maintain staff and offender safety.

1. Staffing Reviews

- a. A staffing review assessment has been completed at each of the institutions to make recommendations for the most efficient and safe utilization of staff and resources that we currently have at each of our sites.
- b. These reviews include analyzing the appropriate number of offenders in each housing unit. With this in mind, a decision was made to reduce the number of offenders in ASP housing unit B for the safety of staff and the orderly running of the unit. Many of these offenders were transferred to ISP.

2. Security Audits

- a. Institutional Security Audits are conducted each year at all institutions. This comprehensive audit reviews all security policies, procedures and practices.
- b. Recommendations are made to the institutions for any concerns noted and a complete report of all standards and areas are addressed with institution staff.

3. CBT Training & Programming

- a. Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Programming is being offered for offenders system-wide. Staff are being taught to facilitate sessions with offenders where active learning takes place.
- b. Offenders learn skills to handle conflict and disappointment more constructively, and should make it unnecessary for the offender to resort to arguing or acting out physically.

4. Transition Incentive Program (TIPS)

- a. The TIPS program is based on research showing that incentives have a greater effect on behavior change than punishment. Rather than disciplining behavior that has already occurred, the availability of incentives continually molds behavior in a positive direction.
- b. The TIPS program provides rewards for exhibiting positive behavior. This behavior gradually becomes a way of life as the offender applies prosocial attitudes to everyday situations.

Question: What is the cost comparison to treat offenders with Hepatitis C?

Response: The old treatment protocol of interferon with ribavirin costs \$30,000 per offender. The new treatment protocol of Harvoni costs \$78,000 per offender. Both dollar values are after any discounts have been applied.

Question: What are the costs of utilities at the old prison at the Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) at Fort Madison?

Response: There is one meter at the old prison for the entire site. Utility costs include the John Bennett Unit (JBU), a 160-bed minimum security housing unit. Costs include electric, gas, and city sewer. Average costs are approximately \$70,000 per month for the site. It is estimated utility costs could be reduced by about 50.0%, or \$35,000 per month, if utilities were eliminated at the unused portion of the old prison.

This location is on well water; the water is very corrosive and is ruining the water distribution system. If utilities are cut to the unused portion of the old prison, the DOC could switch over to city water. This would increase the monthly utility bill, but will allow the old water distribution system, including leaking pipes and failing pumps, to be abandoned.

The DOC is currently holding approximately 38 positions vacant at the ISP. Any reduction in utility costs will be used to fill vacant, critical positions.

Iowa Code section [303.2.2a\(1-2\)](#) requires state agencies to maintain historic structures. In order to meet the maintenance requirement, the DOC needs to maintain a minimum conditioned space. This would include heating to avoid freeze/thaw damage and cooling to avoid mold growth. The DOC is cooperating with the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) on an Historic Structures report that provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a property's history and existing condition. It is estimated this report may cost up to \$150,000. The DOC does not have funding for this report.

Broadly recognized as an effective part of preservation planning, a historic structure report also addresses management or owner goals for the use or re-use of the property. It provides a thoughtfully considered argument for selecting the most appropriate approach to treatment, prior to the commencement of work, and outlines a scope of recommended work. The report serves as an important guide for all changes made to a historic property during a project-repair, rehabilitation, or restoration-and can also provide information for maintenance procedures. Finally, it records the findings of research and investigation, as well as the processes of physical work, for future researchers. Click here for additional information - <http://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/43-historic-structure-reports.htm>.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

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