

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

**Status of Out-of-State Prisoners,
Budget Issues**

and

Impact of Continued Growth in Inmate Population

Presentation to House Appropriations Committee

DOC Director Gene M. Johnson

June 18, 2008

STATUS OF OUT-OF-STATE PRISONERS

Background

- ★ Approved reduction amounts total:
 - ✓ FY08 \$20.9M
 - ✓ FY09 \$19.2M
 - ✓ FY10 \$19.2M
- ★ Language in Chapter 879 (Item 390 B.1) authorizes DOC to contract to sell beds to offset budget reduction in FY09 and FY10.
- ★ Status to date: DOC currently is holding 300 Wyoming inmates, expected to generate annual revenue of approximately \$7.2M per year.
- ★ **Difference is \$12M per year in reductions still to be resolved.**

BUDGET ISSUES AND ONGOING CONCERNS

Prior budget reductions included:

- ★ Closing of one Regional Institution and Community Corrections office;
- ★ Reducing staff at remaining three Regional Offices;
- ★ Eliminating one Assistant Warden at each major institution;
- ★ Eliminating Deputy Chief positions from most P&P Offices;
- ★ Reducing mental health professionals at major institutions; and
- ★ Reducing support staff in areas such as: Finance, Human Resources, Building and Grounds, Inspector General, Clerical, Unit Managers for selected prison housing units, Research and Architecture and Engineering.

BUDGET ISSUES AND ONGOING CONCERNS

Current budgetary shortfalls require that we continue to:

- ★ Implement strict controls in hiring, limit preventive maintenance of infrastructure and delay the purchase of necessary equipment.
- ★ Closely manage several areas with significant shortfalls in existing budget line items which include:
 - ✓ Ongoing information technology communications and infrastructure;
 - ✓ Increased cost of gasoline to meet extensive transportation requirements;
 - ✓ Utilities necessary to operate facilities (fuel oil, natural gas, coal, electricity, and water/wastewater); and
 - ✓ Increased lease costs at P&P District offices.

MANAGING CONTINUED GROWTH OF INMATE POPULATION & IMPACT ON JAILS

- ★ Even with ongoing budget issues, the Department will continue use of 943 emergency temporary beds that were supposed to expire this year.
- ★ Current level of out-of-compliance at 1,842 is lower than recent historical levels (exceeded 3,000 in November and December 2006).
- ★ Expected growth in local responsible jail populations has not occurred over the past year.
- ★ Several sheriffs/jail administrators have complained that they continue to hold out-of-compliance state inmates while DOC houses out of state inmates.
 - ✓ One jail has filed a lawsuit.
 - ✓ At least one additional locality has indicated it is considering doing the same.

MANAGING CONTINUED GROWTH OF INMATE POPULATION & IMPACT ON JAILS

- ★ The Governor has instructed DOC not to accept inmates from any additional states.
- ★ Also, the Governor has asked DOC to work with DPB to identify options to address resulting budget shortfalls and to enhance its ability to increase its intake of State-responsible offenders.
- ★ Until it is known what resources the Department will have at its disposal, DOC will be unable to open St. Brides Phase II (800 beds).

PROJECTION IS FOR INMATE GROWTH TO CONTINUE

**Forecasted growth by the 2010-12 biennium will
require:**

- ★ Restoration of \$19.2M annual reduction to allow all available beds to be used for housing State-responsible offenders instead of contract prisoners;
- ★ Operating funds of \$25M per year for new Grayson County facility (1,024 beds) to open; and,
- ★ Adequate capital and initial operating funds to complete newly authorized Charlotte County facility (up to 2,000 new beds at this location).