

Statement from Executive Director Bryan Collier

The conference committees' funding decisions for Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) for the FY 2024-25 biennium have been approved by the Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate.

During the last few months, we have worked closely with State leadership and their staff considering our requests for additional items of policy and operational significance.

Please note that the items described below will not be finalized until these bills have been approved by the Governor.

SALARY INCREASES:

- Provides funding for a 5% increase for all TDCJ employees, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2024 and an additional 5% increase, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2025.

CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Provides \$174.7 million in additional funding for major repair and renovation projects in FY 2024-25, as well as \$35 million for a new training facility, \$1.4 million for a multi-use facility, and \$20 million for repairs to Hospital Galveston.
- Provides \$23.9 million to support body-worn cameras for correctional officers at 23 maximum security facilities.
- Provides \$93.3 million for vehicle replacements, capital equipment, radios, computers, security equipment, protective gear, and video surveillance system updates and maintenance.

PROBATION:

- Provides funding levels for felony and misdemeanor probation supervision based on the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) February 2023 population projections.

- Provides \$47.7 million in additional funding for basic probation operations, specialized programs for offender treatment, and enhanced offender supervision.
- Provides funding for a 5% increase in employee salaries, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2024 and an additional 5% increase, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2025.
- Provides \$1.5 million for the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program.

TCOOMMI:

- Maintains FY 2022-23 funding levels for mental health services and continuity of care for adult and juvenile offenders and provides funding for a pay raise of approximately 5% per year.

INCARCERATION & TREATMENT:

- Provides continued funding for a 15% Correctional Officer pay raise provided in April 2022.
- Provides \$54.8 million to maintain current operational levels of food, fuel, and utilities at increased prices.
- Provides funding to maintain current operational levels for contracted treatment programs and facilities and provides funding for TDCJ to staff and operate three previously privately operated facilities (Bell, Diboll, and Estes).
- Maintains current funding levels for rehabilitation and reentry programs such as chaplaincy, reentry transitional coordinators, substance abuse treatment programs, and the sex offender treatment program.
- Provides an additional \$119.5 million to maintain inmate health care, an additional \$4.3 million for medical capital equipment, \$2.0 million for additional mental health positions, and \$79.4 million for a 5% increase in employee salaries, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2024 and an additional 5% increase, with a minimum of \$3,000 in FY 2025 staff and an additional targeted pay raise for nursing.
- Provides funding for the operations of a new sheltered housing unit at the Montford Unit.

- Provides additional funding for vocational training programs pursuant to House Bill 2352 of the 87th Legislature.

PAROLE:

- Provides staffing and funding for parole supervision based on the LBB February 2023 population projections.
- Provides funding to maintain FY 2022-23 operational levels for certain residential reentry centers and intermediate sanction facility beds.

OTHER AGENCY FUNCTIONS:

- Maintains staffing and funding levels for all other administrative and support functions (such as Central Administration, Information Technology, Office of Inspector General, State Counsel for Offenders, and Health Services).
- Provides funding for projected Data Center Services for FY2024-25.
- Provides \$2.6 million for the purchase and production of additional license plate inventory.
- Provides \$3.0 million for a parole absconder task force and additional funding for the continued operations of the Office of the Inspector General.
- Provides funding to maintain the agency's support of Operation Lone Star.
- Provides funding for additional cybersecurity and legacy modernization initiatives, as well as funding for the agency's transition to the Comptroller's Centralized Accounting and Payroll/Personnel System (CAPPS) in the FY2024-25 biennium.