



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Prisons

Roy Cooper, Governor
Erik A. Hooks, Secretary

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary
Todd E. Ishee, Commissioner of Prisons
Brandeshawn Harris, Assistant Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairs of Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of House Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety
Chairs of Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Erik A. Hooks, Secretary *EAH*
Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary

RE: Reimburse Counties for Housing and Extraordinary Medical Costs for Inmates, Parolees, and Post-Release Supervisees Awaiting Transfer to State Prison System

DATE: February 1, 2020

Pursuant to Section 16C.2. of Session Law 2017-57, the Department of Public Safety may use funds available to the Department for the 2017 - 2019 fiscal biennium to pay the sum of up to forty dollars (\$40.00) per day as reimbursement to counties for the cost of housing convicted inmates, parolees, and post-release supervisees awaiting transfer to the State prison system, as provided in G.S. 148-29. The Department shall report annually by February 1 of each year to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the chairs of the House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety on the expenditure of funds to reimburse counties for prisoners awaiting transfer.

North Carolina prisons continue to experience high levels of staff vacancies that create serious concerns related to the safe and secure operations of facilities. One effort to improve safety for staff and offenders is to reduce the offender population at facilities where staffing levels are not sufficient to safely manage offenders at facility capacity. As a result, in June 2018 Prisons began backlogging offenders sentenced to serve terms of incarceration in the state prison system in county jails. The Department of Public Safety is increasing efforts to recruit and retain staff, enhancing facility security through other means such as deployment of new equipment and technology, and modifying policies to promote operational efficiencies, all of which are aimed at improving security and reducing reliance on county jails to house the backlogged offenders.

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For calendar year 2019, the department incurred jail backlog costs of \$10.3 million, as depicted in the table below:

CALENDAR YEAR	MONTH	DAYS INVOICED	AMOUNT INVOICED FROM COUNTY JAIL TO DOP	AMOUNT SUBMITTED TO ACCTG FOR PAYMENT	BALANCE DOP TO PAY TO COUNTY JAILS	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID BY DOP TO COUNTY JAIL
2019	January	14,026	\$ 561,040.00	\$ 561,040.00	\$ -	\$ 561,040.00
2019	February	11,594	\$ 463,760.00	\$ 463,760.00	\$ -	\$ 463,760.00
2019	March	12,399	\$ 495,960.00	\$ 486,960.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 495,960.00
2019	April	16,833	\$ 673,320.00	\$ 654,240.00	\$ 19,080.00	\$ 673,320.00
2019	May	22,023	\$ 879,800.00	\$ 853,840.00	\$ 25,960.00	\$ 879,800.00
2019	June	23,514	\$ 940,560.00	\$ 902,680.00	\$ 37,880.00	\$ 940,560.00
2019	July	22,489	\$ 899,560.00	\$ 892,920.00	\$ 6,640.00	\$ 869,680.00
2019	August	21,034	\$ 841,360.00	\$ 824,440.00	\$ 16,920.00	\$ 762,000.00
2019	September	27,163	\$ 1,086,520.00	\$ 1,038,680.00	\$ 47,840.00	\$ 1,006,600.00
2019	October	31,129	\$ 1,245,160.00	\$ 1,035,440.00	\$ 209,720.00	\$ 950,800.00
2019	November	28,072	\$ 1,122,880.00	\$ 1,006,360.00	\$ 116,520.00	\$ 794,880.00
2019	December	29,089	\$ 1,144,520.00	\$ 959,520.00	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 349,520.00
	TOTALS:	259,365	\$ 10,354,440.00	\$ 9,679,880.00	\$ 674,560.00	\$ 8,747,920.00

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Melissa Earp, Prisons Director for Administrative Services, at 984-255-6002.