

Investing in Our Staff, Investing in Our Future

FY '23



House Corrections Subcommittee
February 16, 2022
Director Heidi E. Washington



Investment #1 – Wage Increases for All MDOC Employees

- The MDOC is requesting \$42m in employee economics, including \$47m in salary and wage related increases.
- These ongoing investments are key to the MDOC's recruitment and retention strategies.
- All state employees will be receiving a negotiated 5% raise in October.
- At that time, the pay range for Corrections Officers will be \$20.07 to \$30.75 per hour.



Investment #2 – Secure WIFI in MDOC Facilities

- The MDOC is requesting \$30m in one-time funding for a transformative investment to create secure WIFI networks within its facilities.
- Main Benefits
 - Electronic Communications Between Prisoners and Staff
 - Expanded Access to Educational and Programming Content
 - Increased Efficiency for Staff
 - Improved Preparation for Offender Success



Investment #3 – Prisoner Movement System

- The MDOC is requesting \$10m in one-time funding to install a RFID prisoner location system within its facilities.
- RFID enabled bracelets will allow for the elimination of paper passes and burdensome record keeping while maintaining an accurate record of prisoner movement within facilities in real-time.
- Main Benefits
 - Improves Custody and Security Operations of MDOC Facilities
 - Will Allow for More Efficient Movement of Prisoners Within Facilities
 - Allows for the Elimination of the Inefficient and Wasteful Paper Pass System for Prisoner Movement
 - Maintains a Permanent Record of Prisoner Movement to Support Investigations, Grievances and Litigation

Investment #4 – Increased Research and IT Staff



- The MDOC is undergoing a much-needed transition to utilizing more Information Technology in daily operations.
- The Department is requesting \$1.2m and 10 FTE's to deploy, support, and maintain this technology.
- Main Benefits:
 - Significant investments in IT will only have their intended impact if the MDOC has sufficient staff to operate and maintain these systems.
 - The MDOC needs specialized staff to ensure that front line staff have adequate support to use new technologies.
 - These new systems will allow for the creation of significantly more data, but staff must be in place to collect and analyze data for it to be beneficial.



Fund Shift – Prisoner Programming/Phone Commission

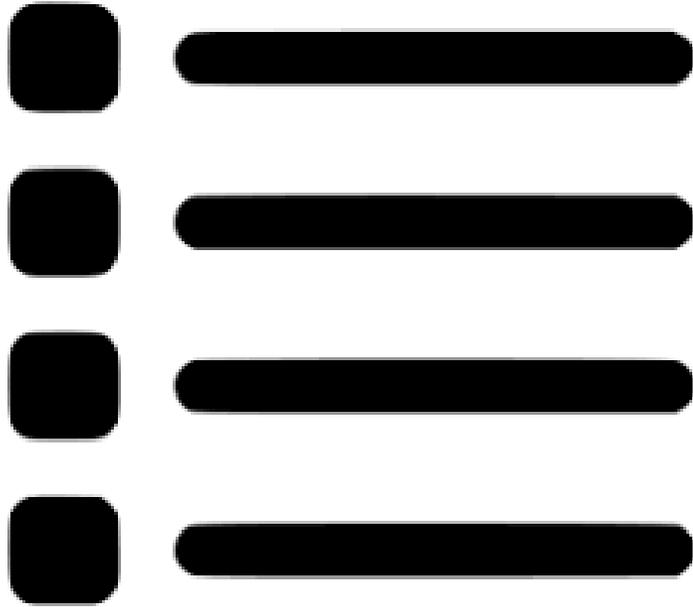
- The MDOC is requesting \$14.8m in ongoing GF/GP to support current prisoner programming and education efforts.
- This funding shift will allow for the elimination of \$11m in annual phone fees paid by prisoners and their families.
- Main Benefits:
 - Reduces the financial burden placed on families with incarcerated loved ones.
 - Increases the connection of prisoners to family and their community, resulting in improved reentry outcomes.
 - Maintains funding at current levels for important education and core programming activities within the MDOC.



Additional Budget Requests

- \$15m for the Final Doe Litigation Settlement Payment
- \$3.7m for Contractual Nursing Cost Increases
- \$245,000 for Worksite Security Contract Cost Increases
- \$212,000 for Jackson Water and Sewer Rate Increases

Boilerplate Changes



- The current MDOC budget contains roughly 60 sections of boilerplate.
- The MDOC has recommended the elimination of over 25 sections that are either redundant, outdated, non-binding legislative intent, or unnecessarily burdensome to produce.
- The MDOC values transparency and welcomes continued discussion with the Legislature about the purpose and content of specific boilerplate requirements.