






Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary
Brandeshawn Harris, Acting Commissioner
Loris Sutton, Acting Assistant Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety

FROM: Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary 
Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary 
Brandeshawn Harris, Acting Commissioner of Prisons 

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

DATE: August 5, 2022

Due to staffing shortages, and to enhance safety with the resulting shortages, Prisons in June 2018 began backlogging offenders sentenced to serve terms of incarceration in the state prison system in county jails as a means of population control. Staffing has been an issue for many years, going back to the early 2000s, and the Department of Public Safety worked tirelessly for several years with various partners to increase efforts to recruit and retain staff. Multiple changes have been made to the hiring process during the past five years, as well as the addition of several salary adjustments, supplement pay increases for impacted facilities, and reclassification of position levels to improve retention.

In addition, during this time, the work environment has been enhanced by improving facility security through other means such as deployment of new equipment and technology, and modification to policies to promote operational efficiencies and security, all of which were aimed at improving staffing levels. There have also been several adjustments to staff training, adjusting basic curriculums to better prepare staff for the offender environment, and adjusting training delivery locations and methods to address employee needs. Excellent gains have been made allowing the jail backlog to be steadily and significantly decreased and even eliminated some months during the past two fiscal years. The continued effect of COVID-19 has impacted Prisons' operational ability to safely transfer offenders from county jails during both 2021 and 2022 to end the jail backlog. Prisons has worked closely with the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association on the backlog, taking measured steps to safely transport offenders from jails while accounting for COVID testing, outbreaks, and jail facilities placed on red status due to COVID

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positive cases. As vaccines and boosters became available for the facility population, Prisons has continued to work with the Sheriffs' Association to reduce the backlog with a goal of eliminating in a safe manner.

For the fourth quarter of FY 2021-22, the department incurred jail backlog cost of \$368,400 as detailed in the table below. This is a significant decrease from the previous quarter which had jail backlog costs of more than \$1.5M.

YEAR	MONTH	DAYS INVOICED	AMOUNT INVOICED FROM COUNTY JAIL TO DOP	AMOUNT SUBMITTED TO ACCTG FOR PAYMENT	ACTUAL AMOUNT PAID BY DOP TO COUNTY JAIL	BALANCE DOP TO PAY TO COUNTY JAIL
2022	April	6,169	\$246,760	\$246,760	\$201,000	\$45,760
2022	May	1,953	\$78,120	\$78,120	\$50,960	\$27,160
2022	June	1,088	\$43,520	\$43,520	\$19,320	\$24,200
TOTALS		9,210	\$368,400	\$368,400	\$271,280	\$97,120