



SPECIAL EDITION

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL BOLSTERS OFFICER NUMBERS, PROTECTS STAFF

Governor Snyder released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2013-2014 Budget Recommendation today. In the proposal, Governor Snyder was very cognizant of the need for staff safety and adequate staffing of prisons throughout the state. Under this budget proposal, the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) continues the ability to enhance public safety by providing custody and care for incarcerated felons while maintaining oversight and supervision of parolees and felony probationers.

- The Governor's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 recommends total funding of \$2.03 billion of which \$1.96 billion is general fund.
- Funding proposed for the coming fiscal year remains basically unchanged from the current budget, despite a slight increase in prison population and almost \$50 million in negotiated employee pay adjustments. It also continues funding for the operation of a parole violator center to reduce crime. The Department is able to successfully contain costs through a number of efficiency measures undertaken in the last two years, including efforts to reorganize health care services, limit overtime, reduce positions, utilize supply chain management and reduce worker's compensation costs attributable to staff injuries.
- Prison operations is 78% of the budget or \$1.56 billion. This funding allows for the secure confinement of approximately 43,000 prisoners.
- Parole, probation and community services is 16% of the budget, or \$331 million. It includes local alternatives to incarceration in the state's prison system.
- The Governor's recommendation includes \$6 million in state restricted funds to improve staff personal protection and facility security systems at several facilities. This investment will reduce serious assaults on staff, improve safety within the prisons and provide enhanced protection for the public.



(Continued from page 1) **BUDGET**

- Included is \$9 million in one-time general funding for new corrections officers. This investment will allow the Department to replace officers who promote, retire or leave employment and reduce overtime costs. This additional funding provides a total of \$18 million to train approximately 790 new officers.
- The Governor's proposed expansion of Medicaid eligibility will improve access to primary care and health outcomes for Michigan's parolees, helping them succeed in the community while saving the Department over \$24 million in general funds for FY 2014. Covered services may include specific reentry health services, substance abuse treatment and sex offender treatment. Most inpatient hospitalization for prisoners will also be covered under the proposed expansion.
- Anticipated funding for fiscal year 2015 is recommended at \$2.05 billion of which \$1.98 billion is general fund.

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The Governor's budget recommendation now goes to the Michigan Legislature. The budget must be approved through both chambers of the Michigan Legislature. Appropriations subcommittees will compose budget recommendations for each of the state departments. Those recommendations will be reported out to the full appropriations committee. Following hearings and amendments to the bill, it is reported to the floor. This year, the Corrections budget started in the House of Representatives and then goes through the same process in the Senate. If there are differences in the bills that are passed in the House and Senate, a conference committee will

recommend a final bill to ensure both versions are the same. If both chambers agree on the bill, it is passed. Final approval of the bill into law is carried out with the Governor's signature. The Governor has the authority to veto specific lines of the budget bill prior to signing it into law. Any vetoed items can be overruled with a 2/3 vote of both chambers of the Legislature. Governor Snyder has set a deadline of July 1 to have a two-year budget in place, though only the first year is legally binding.

Stay tuned to F.Y.I. for updates on the budget process as it unfolds.

