



## North Carolina Department of Public Safety

### Prisons

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

Timothy D. Moose, Chief Deputy Secretary  
Todd E. Ishee, Commissioner  
Brandeshawn Harris, 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   
Todd E. Ishee, 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:** April 13, 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 had 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 have all had positive impacts.

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 fiscal year. The continued effect of COVID-19 pandemic and recent impact of new variants have impacted Prisons' operational ability to safely transfer offenders from county jails over the course of calendar year 2021 in order 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 positive cases. As vaccines became available for the facility population in 2021, Prisons has continued to work with the Sheriffs' Association to reduce the backlog with a goal of eliminating it in a safe manner.

**Mailing Address:**  
4260 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4260

[www.ncdps.gov](http://www.ncdps.gov)



**Office Location:**  
831 West Morgan Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
Phone: 919-838-4000  
Fax: 919-733-8272

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For the third quarter of FY 2021-22, the department incurred jail backlog costs of \$1.5 million as detailed in the table below.

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	January	17,917	\$716,680	\$716,680	\$576,440	\$140,240
2022	February	15,762	\$630,480	\$630,480	\$228,480	\$402,000
2022	March	4,941	\$197,640	\$0	\$0	\$197,640
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>38,620</b>	<b>\$1,544,800</b>	<b>\$1,347,160</b>	<b>\$804,920</b>	<b>\$739,880</b>

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