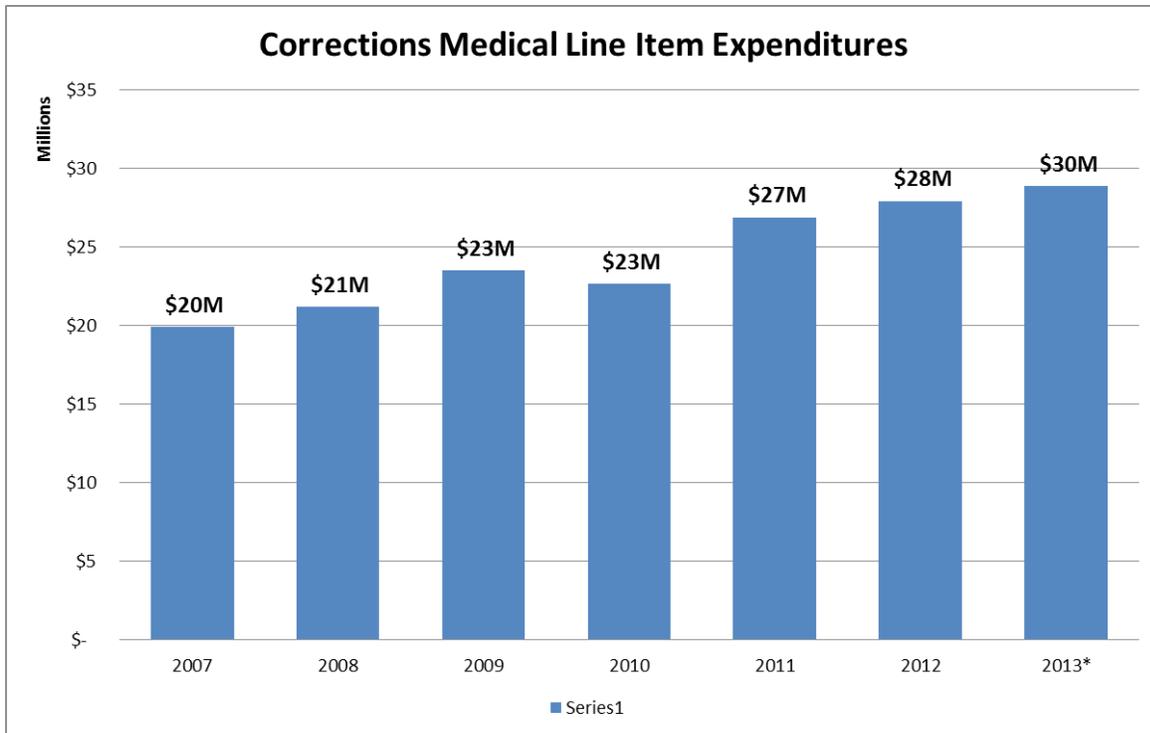


The more weight you add to an airplane, the more variables will need to change to keep it aloft at a fixed altitude. Variables such as favorable wind conditions, more thrust, less weight in other areas, etc. cannot remain constant and keep the plane at a fixed elevation. Something will need to change.

The Department of Corrections is required by federal law to provide medical, dental and mental health to those housed in facilities owned, operated or contracted by the state. Inmates receive care from both in-house resources (UDC doctors, nurses, dentists, etc.) as well through contracts through providers such as the University of Utah Medical Center. For FY 2013 estimated medical costs per inmate equated to about \$4,100. For the approximate 7,100 inmates that cost about \$29 million total. For FY 2012 some of the department's largest expenditure categories within this line item were:

1. Personnel Costs – \$13.8M (in-house staff)
2. Current Expense – \$5.3M (of which \$3.5M were drug purchases)
3. Other Charges/Pass Through - \$8.3M (contracts with medical providers – i.e. Univ. of Utah Medical Center)

Since FY 2007, total costs have risen about 6.6% annually and has changed some things to address the rising costs.. The Department has made changes over time such as purchasing equipment that they would otherwise contract with a provider to have access to, emphasizing more telemedicine to the extent possible, and within the last month has had some inmates qualify for medicaid reimbursement. To be eligible an inmate has to be hospitalized outside of state prison facilities for 24 hours and qualify under other medicaid eligibility requirements (determined by the Department of Workforce Services). The graph below shows increases over time.



In order to deal with the rising costs this last General Session the Legislature identified \$2 million ongoing in other areas of the Department's budget and applied them to this line item as they have experienced one-time shortfalls of about \$2M annually typically was addressed through one-time sources. As long as the prison population and medical costs follow historical trends, they will continue to rise however in the short-term, revenue at least matches or exceeds expenditures.