

Budget Brief – Jail Contracting

MFA

EOCJ-UDC-05

SUMMARY

The Department of Corrections (UDC) uses contracts with county jails to better manage their inmate population. Jail contracts provide additional prison capacity to incarcerate offenders sentenced to the State Prison System. The Department of Corrections has contracted for 1,260 contract beds plus 40 beds utilized for “halfway” offenders. Currently, the State pays counties the jail contract core rate of \$42.32 per day.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two issues are at the forefront of jail contracting discussions: prison population growth and the contract core rate.

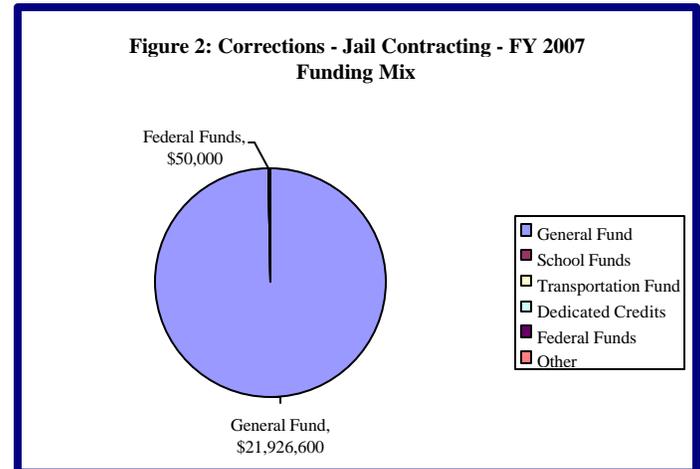
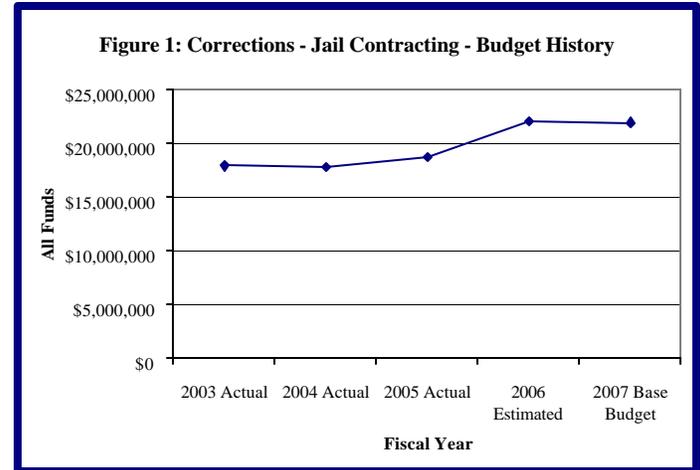
Prison Population Growth

The UDC uses jail contracting beds to address inmate population growth. The UDC has a two-pronged approach to solving its capacity shortages: 1) Promoting jail construction at county jails for contract beds and 2) constructing additions to existing state facilities. The State is approaching maximum inmate capacities in both state facilities and contracted facilities. It should be noted that 200 additional contract beds will become available in FY2007. Additional funding for these contract beds will not be required.

Since jail contracting is a single program line-item, additional funds cannot be shifted from other correctional programs. Additional funding in the jail contracting line item must be added by appropriation should the Legislature desire to increase the number of contracted beds.

Jail Contract Core Rate

Each fiscal year, a new jail programs core rate is negotiated by the Utah Sheriff’s Association, local elected officials, the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, and the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget. The rate is based on operating costs reported by the counties to Corrections for the previous calendar year. The rate is established by utilizing all expenses for the counties divided by all the inmates held in county jails. The Legislature must take action on any core rate committee recommendation before a new rate is enacted. For the last four years, Corrections has contracted with counties at a rate of \$42.32 per day. Funding for medical and transportation costs of contract beds is included in the Corrections Programs and Operations line item. The Core Rate Committee has recommended a new core rate of \$43.10.



ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

The performance measures reported by the Department for Jail Contracting are reported in Corrections Programs and Operations Budget Brief (EOCJ-UDC-02).

Counties receive additional funding through Jail Reimbursement. See the Jail Reimbursement Budget Brief (EOCJ-UDC-06) for more information.

BUDGET DETAIL

The Department has not requested additional funding for jail contracting levels of FY2006.

Core Rate Increase

The Legislature has not increased the core rate of \$42.32 for the last four years. The Core Rate Committee is recommending a 2.1 percent increase to \$43.10 for FY 2007. The fiscal impact of increasing the core rate would be 658,700—\$403,100 in increased funds for Jail Contracting and \$255,600 for Jail reimbursement. For your information, The Core Rate Committee recommended a core rate of \$43.96 in FY 2006.

Budget Recommendation

The Analyst recommends a base budget for Jail Contracting of \$21,926,600 in General Fund.

Intent Language

The Analyst recommends the continuation of the following Legislative intent language: *It is the intent of the Legislature that the funds for Jail Contracting line item shall not lapse.*

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

1. The Analyst recommends a base budget for Jail Contracting of \$21,926,600.
2. Consider continuing non-lapsing intent language for the Jail Contracting line item.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Corrections - Jail Contracting						
	FY 2005	FY 2006		FY 2006		FY 2007*
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Base Budget
General Fund	18,086,200	21,926,600	0	21,926,600	0	21,926,600
General Fund, One-time	250,000	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Funds	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Beginning Nonlapsing	479,600	0	99,800	99,800	(99,800)	0
Closing Nonlapsing	(99,800)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$18,716,000	\$21,976,600	\$99,800	\$22,076,400	(\$99,800)	\$21,976,600
Programs						
Jail Contracting	18,716,000	21,976,600	99,800	22,076,400	(99,800)	21,976,600
Total	\$18,716,000	\$21,976,600	\$99,800	\$22,076,400	(\$99,800)	\$21,976,600
Categories of Expenditure						
Current Expense	40,300	31,000	4,000	35,000	0	35,000
Other Charges/Pass Thru	18,675,700	21,945,600	95,800	22,041,400	(99,800)	21,941,600
Total	\$18,716,000	\$21,976,600	\$99,800	\$22,076,400	(\$99,800)	\$21,976,600
Other Data						

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.