

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2022 Interim

October 19, 2022

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Justice and Judiciary of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 9:00 AM, in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Danny Carroll, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Danny Carroll, Co-Chair; Representative Joseph M. Fischer, Co-Chair; Senator John Schickel; Representatives McKenzie Cantrell and Jennifer Decker.

Guests: Rebecca Norton, Finance Director, Justice & Public Safety Cabinet (JPSC); Roberta McCann, Staff Assistant, Office of Financial Management Services, JPSC; Mike McKinney, Director, Administrative Services, Department of Corrections (DoC); and Tonya Hunter, Assistant Director, Administrative Services, DoC.

LRC Staff: Perry Papka, Zachary Ireland, and Benjamin Thompson

Department of Corrections

Ms. Norton, Mr. McKinney, and Ms. Hunter provided an update on various capital projects within the Department of Corrections (DoC), as well as information regarding new fleet vehicles for both jail inspectors and the Office of Probation and Parole.

In response to questions from Chair Carroll, Mr. McKinney confirmed that DoC continues to utilize probation and parole officers to offset staffing shortages in many facilities. Ms. Norton noted that the raises for correctional officers in juvenile facilities mean those employees now have the same rate of pay as correctional officers in adult facilities.

In response to a question from Senator Schickel, Ms. Norton stated that juvenile detention facilities are operated by the Department for Juvenile Justice, rather than the DoC.

In response to questions from Chair Carroll, Mr. McKinney stated that two facilities have had to close dormitories in order to keep a safe staffing ratio. Mr. McKinney noted that DoC actively recruits in an attempt to address staff shortages. Security and staff safety are the top priorities when the DoC is considering its budgetary needs.

In response to a question from Senator Schickel, Mr. McKinney confirmed that all but two DoC facilities utilize twelve hour shifts for staff.

In response to questions from Chair Carroll, Mr. McKinney stated that the bid for the Little Sandy Correctional Complex expansion project came in at one percent over what was budgeted. Mr. McKinney noted that all new vehicle purchases for both jail inspectors and probation and parole officers were powered by gasoline engines.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 AM.