



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Corrections

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February 26, 2024

The Honorable Paul Evans, Co-Chair
The Honorable Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Public Safety Subcommittee on Ways and Means
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety,

Below are the questions and responses from the February 22, 2024, Public Safety Subcommittee on Ways and Means hearing.

1. What is the cost to reestablish the death chamber?

The Oregon State Penitentiary saved some of the equipment from the old death chamber that includes the phones, bed, and other related equipment. The estimated costs to reestablish the room are approximately \$100,000.

2. What does decision making for capital improvements look like across the system?

The Department of Corrections (DOC) last commissioned a Facility Conditions Assessment (FCA) of all institutions in 2017. DOC deferred maintenance and capital improvement needs were prioritized based upon life, health, and safety as well as the likelihood for rapid deterioration or failure within one to two years.

Using this data as well as industry standards, central Facilities staff collaborated with institutions to adjust project priorities to reduce the backlog as well as meet immediate needs. In addition, central Facilities staff and institution employees meet quarterly to discuss project planning and prioritization.

Project management, completion, operations/business unit coordination, and budget tracking are all completed within the Facilities team and the project list is updated upon completion of each project. Replacement equipment is entered into our current but antiquated Computerized Maintenance Management System (CMMS) for maintenance scheduling and life span tracking.

We are looking to update that system in the coming biennium to better manage equipment replacement and provide improved visibility of upcoming replacement needs. The goal is to stay ahead of replacement needs before they become deferred or emergent. Facilities has a Request for Proposal (RFP) in process to have an updated FCA performed. During this FCA process, the institutions will be involved in reviewing the condition reports and priorities.

3. What is DOC's rate of escape?

The number of escapes and walk-a-ways are a Key Performance Measure for DOC and they are reported annually. During 2023, DOC had 0% or zero escapes and three walk-a-ways, which were all from community work crews. For context, in 2023, there were 31,978 AIC workdays on community work crews (roads, parks, fires, etc.).

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Black

Jennifer Black
Communications and Government Relations Assistant Director
Oregon Department of Corrections