

June 9, 2010

DIRECTOR'S
NEWS UPDATE



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Director's Update Balancing the FY 2011 Budget Furloughs Announced

The Department of Corrections has been extremely proactive in managing mandated budget reductions and making adjustments to balance the budget. This has enabled the department to avoid furloughs and extensive reductions in force in the current fiscal year budget of 2010. However, due to our next fiscal year 2011 budget being reduced an additional 14 million dollars and approximately 31 million in additional unfunded net offender growth, unfunded mandates and non replaceable funds to balance the fiscal year 2010 budget that will not be available in the next year; more severe measures will be required. Reference is made to the previous Director's update that detailed the true magnitude of mandated reductions and adjustments in the upcoming fiscal year 2011 budget.

As announced previously, the department will be requesting a supplemental appropriation when the next legislative session convenes in February 2011. However we must initiate some of those more severe measures now as the 3% (14 million

dollar) legislative mandated reduction begins July 1st. Therefore we must act upon that portion of our deficit now and will request a supplemental on the remainder of our budget needs.

Actions that will be initiated include 23 furlough days. All employees will do one furlough day each in July, August, September, October, November, December, January and February. The furlough schedule after February will depend upon whether or not and or how much of a supplemental appropriation we receive when the next legislative session convenes. Operational details will be forthcoming from central personnel and your chain of command. Unlike previous years when we could obtain some legislative leadership assurances that our supplemental need would be addressed, this next year we will have a new Governor, State Treasurer, Senate Pro Tempore and House Speaker which negates our ability to receive those assurances. Also the projected savings of other measures the department will put into place may affect the number of furlough days after February.

The fact that the department up until now has been able to avoid furloughs while most other state agencies have been doing them for over a year now, and that we were successful with a supplemental to avoid furloughs beginning last March, provides no solace. Legislators have applauded us as being the most creative, proactive and responsive to this long term budget crisis. However, even with doing our part in this national recession, the fact remains that we have continued net growth that should have and must be addressed by our state policymakers. Our Board of Corrections, this office and others have and will continue to provide evidenced based recommendations to policy makers to address inefficiencies in our sentencing practices while not compromising public safety.

The Department of Corrections will continue to be the most effective and efficient not only when compared nationally to other state correctional systems but when compared to other Oklahoma state agencies. We do more and do it extremely well, with less than any other agency...and there is no doubt we will continue to do so. That type of dedication and work ethic is engrained in our culture. As I have stated before, please take time out to thank your fellow employees for being there and let's stay focused on safety and getting through this crisis.