

Department of Corrections
FY23 - Summary of Significant Budget Issues
(\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	Comment
1	Various	American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Revenue Replacement	Net Zero (\$150,000.0) Gen Fund (UGF) \$150,000.0 ARPA Rev R (UGF)	The Governor utilizes \$150 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) revenue replacement in this agency's budget, out of a total of \$375.4 million statewide. One of the allowable uses for the State's allocation from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) within ARPA is replacing revenue lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding can be used for any cost of State government that is within the scope of normal government operations. To avoid distorting the budget, the funds used for revenue replacement are appropriated to the general fund, and a UGF tracking code (1271) is used for activities that fit the federal requirements, adding up to the total amount of revenue replaced. Since 1271 is just a UGF tracking code, there is no impact on the agency's operations. The fund change will be reversed in the FY24 Adjusted Base.
2	Administration and Support / Office of the Commissioner	Criminal Justice Planner/ Technicians added in FY22 for Offender DNA Collection	n/a	In FY22, the legislature approved a Governor's request for ten Criminal Justice Technicians to collect offender DNA upon booking. This increment was funded with \$1,010.5 of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds (CSLFRF) which then remained in the base budget for FY23. These positions are distributed from the Commissioner's Office (where they were originally approved) to various institutions in the FY23 budget. Fiscal Analyst Comment: CSLFRF is a one-time fund source and will need to be replaced in FY24 in order to maintain funding for these positions.
3	Population Management / Recruitment and Retention	Transfer Human Resource Consultants and Tech (07-1605, 20-1013, 20-6002) to Administrative Services for Staffing Support	(\$502.6) Gen Fund (UGF) (3) PFT Positions	In FY21 the legislature created a new Recruitment and Retention Unit for the Department of Corrections, adding \$400.0 UGF and three PFT positions to be added as 'recruitment officers.' In addition, the agency received a \$75.0 UGF increment in the Office of the Commissioner for expanded recruitment outreach, and a \$61.8 UGF increment in Administrative Services for officer applicant medical exams for a total of \$136.8. In the FY22 Management Plan, the agency moved the sum of \$136.8 into the new Recruitment and Retention Unit, as well as two Admin Officers who perform work related to Alaska Police Standards Council requirements for commissioned officers: a Human Resource Consultant (20-1013) and a Human Resource Technician (20-6002) with a sum of \$196.2 UGF to support those two positions. The agency also transferred a Human Resource Consultant (07-1605) and \$155.0 UGF from Administrative Service to the Recruitment and Retention Unit. In FY23, the Governor's budget moves the Recruitment and Retention unit to the Population Management appropriation, and transfers the three employees mentioned above back to Administrative Services. The three positions were originally transferred in with a total of \$351.2

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3	Population Management / Recruitment and Retention	Transfer Human Resource Consultants and Tech (07-1605, 20-1013, 20-6002) to Administrative Services for Staffing Support	(\$502.6) Gen Fund (UGF) (3) PFT Positions	(continued) UGF. Additional funding in this transfer includes the \$136.8 amount authorized in FY21, as well as the sum of all salary adjustments that have occurred in the allocation since it was established. The Recruitment and Retention Unit moves forward with \$400.0 UGF and three budgeted positions, as originally authorized in FY21. Items 3 and 4 are related.
4	Population Management / Recruitment and Retention	Move Recruitment and Retention Allocation from Administration and Support to the Population Management Appropriation	n/a	The Recruitment and Retention unit is moved from Administration and Support to the Population Management appropriation with a total of \$400.0 UGF and three positions, which reflects the initial FY21 legislative increment. The Recruitment and Retention Unit was originally placed in the Administration and Support appropriation at the request of the agency, as most hiring activity occurs within Administrative Services. Challenges arose when the unit could not hire Correctional Officers as 'recruitment officers' as the legislature had intended, because it was determined that those individuals would lose their status as fully-commissioned officers. Instead, the agency has used temporary duty assignment work to incorporate Correctional Officers into this unit. By moving this unit to Population Management, the agency will have increased flexibility in hiring Correctional Officers to support recruitment and retention efforts. At the time of publication, an Admin Officer II and Admin Assistant II position are both filled, and OMB reports a third unfilled Admin Assistant II position with the unit. In addition to these budgeted positions, the unit is also supported by temporary duty assignment work from two Correctional Officers, and a non-permanent on-call Human Resources Technician. This unit is supervised by a Human Resources Consultant who is budgeted in the Division of Administrative Services. Items 3 and 4 are related.
5	Various	Establish New Mental Health Unit at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center	\$1,663.4 Gen Fund (UGF) 11 PFT Positions	The new Mental Health Unit at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center would be staffed by five Correctional Officer I/II's, a Registered Nurse/Physician's Assistant, four Correctional Nurse I/II's, and one Mental Health Clinician I/II. The agency describes a growing need for mental health services, and reports a 19% increase since 2008 in the number of inmates requiring treatment for severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). The agency also reports an increasing need for acute detoxification services.

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5	Various	Establish New Mental Health Unit at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center	\$1,663.4 Gen Fund (UGF) 11 PFT Positions	(continued) Population Management - Combined Hiland Mountain Correctional Center: \$655.1 and 5 PFTs Health and Rehabilitation Services - Behavioral Health Care: \$1,008.3 and 6 PFTs Fiscal Analyst Comment: The agency mentions that 65% of the prison population is comprised of Mental Health Trustees, and if the legislature chooses to fund these increments for a new Mental Health Unit, it may be appropriate to update the fund source to General Fund / Mental Health (fund code 1037) for tracking and reporting purposes.
6	Various	Establish New Booking Area at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center	\$1,428.3 Gen Fund (UGF) 10 PFT Positions	The agency began booking female inmates directly at the Hiland Mountain Correctional Center in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to allow the Anchorage Correctional Complex to focus on quarantine efforts upon intake. The agency reports that this practice has facilitated population management activities, and reduced the turnaround time for local law enforcement to turn over custody of those individuals. Funding and personnel are requested to make this a permanent practice. Currently, these services are provided by existing staff and the workload is causing increases in overtime pay. New positions include five Correctional Officer I/II's, one Correctional Officer III, and one Correctional Officer IV, as well as two Correctional Nurse I/II's and a Mental Health Clinician I/II. Population Management - Combined Hiland Mountain Correctional Center: \$952.3 and 7 PFTs Health and Rehabilitation Services - Physical Health Care: \$476.0 and 3 PFTs
7	Population Management / Various	Add Institutional Support Positions and Funding to Support Booking and Property Staffing	\$1,002.5 Gen Fund (UGF) 9 PFT Positions	Criminal Justice Technician II positions are added to assume non-security functions that are currently performed by Correctional Officers. Responsibilities will include: inmate property inventory and distribution, booking, facility supplies, inmate work schedules, reception and visitor scheduling and screening, inmate accounting, inmate records, inmate time accounting, and more. Added support should reduce the amount of overtime required of Correctional Officers. Positions are added in the following institutions: Fairbanks CC: \$211.2 and 2 PFTs Ketchikan CC: \$103.1 and 1 PFT Lemon Creek CC: \$216.6 and 2 PFTs Mat-Su CC: \$103.0 and 1 PFT Yukon-Kuskokwim CC: \$265.6 and 2 PFTs Pt. MacKenzie CF: \$103.0 and 1 PFT

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8	Health and Rehabilitation Services / Physical Health Care	Replace Restorative Justice Funding Due to Reduced Availability of the Formula-Driven Fund Source	Net Zero \$391.5 Gen Fund (UGF) (\$391.5) Rest Just (Other)	<p>The amount of Restorative Justice Account funds available for appropriation in FY23 is significantly less than the FY22 amount due to a sharp decline in the number of incarcerated individuals. This is primarily due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Alaska Court System and other facets of the criminal justice system. In FY22, the calculation was based on 9,446 ineligible Alaskans (calendar year 2019) and a \$992 dividend, and in FY23 it is based on 7,700 ineligible Alaskans (calendar year 2020) and a \$1,114 dividend. This fund source has historically shown significant volatility due to changes in the dividend amount as well as inmate and felon counts, and the impacts of COVID-19 will likely carry into the FY24 Restorative Justice fund calculation well, as 2021 incarceration rates did not show a significant uptick over 2020.</p> <p>Fiscal Analyst Comment: Alaska Statute 43.23.048(b) states that the legislature may appropriate Restorative Justice funds for the following purposes and percentages, and in priority order:</p> <p>10-13% - Crime Victims Compensation Fund (Fund Cap) 2-6% - Office of Victims' Rights (Leg) 1-3% - Nonprofits for Services for Crime Victims and Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs (DPS) 1-3% - Nonprofits for Mental Health Services and Substance Abuse Treatment for Offenders (DOH) 79-88% - Costs related to to incarceration or probation (DOC)</p> <p>The Governor's FY23 request currently allocates the minimum amount to meet the threshold for the Crime Victim Compensation Fund, and just meets the minimum for grants to nonprofits through DPS and DOH. Currently, 84% of the funding is directed to the Department of Corrections. The availability of Restorative Justice funds is significantly lower than the past five years due to reduced incarcerations and dividend amounts which results in the need to reduce funding levels or replace this fund source with UGF.</p>