



Human Temperatures at Cost Savings Report (Highlights)

Contact TPCA at TPCAAdvocates@gmail.com for full report

What are we asking for - **HUMANE TEMPERATURES!** We are asking for you contact your legislators and ask them to ensure TDCJ maintains the same standards utilized by the Texas jail system, which are to **maintain temperature stays between 65°F and 85°F within all of TDCJ's Prison facilities.**

Current Cost of Not Providing Humane Temperature

Lawsuits - TDCJ has wasted millions of taxpayer dollars on medical and heat-related litigation and stands to lose more in the future. Monies paid for lawsuits could have been more effectively used by putting Air Conditioning within several units. Monies that have been used to pay these lawsuits have been taken from an already severely stressed medical system and rehabilitation programs. TDCJ has paid out a total of **\$12,021,500** on 11 lawsuits.

As of November 2020, TDCJ claims there have been 35 heat-related cases and 16 still pending.

| Potential Payout on 16 Pending Lawsuits | |
|---|--|
| Based on an average settlement, TDCJ could potentially pay out an additional \$17,485,818.18 . | |
| \$12,021,500.00 ÷ 11 = \$1,092,863.63 | Total Payout ÷ # of cases = Potential payout |
| \$1,092,863.63 × 16 = \$17,485,818.18 | Potential payout × # of cases = Total payout |

Healthcare Cost

- With longer sentences, there has been and will continue to be an increase in elderly incarcerated individuals who are at higher risk for heat-related illness.
 - Extreme Temperatures can be a causal factor in Medical and Psychological problems.
 - Increased fees such as; Ambulance, Outside medical facilities, and Workers Compensation. **2018 total hospital cost. \$47,292**
 - \$193,000** paid out in medical expenses and temporary income benefits for filed worker's compensation benefits over 5 years.
 - An Ambulance ride can be anywhere between **\$350 and \$2000**, depending on the company. **\$742 per ambulance ride × 15 offenders = \$11,130**
- NOTE: Extra Correctional officers and staff are needed for medical incidences.

Suicides

- Research indicates that Extreme Temperatures are a contributing factor in suicide, violence, and homicides.
- Lance Lowry, former head of the Texas Correctional Officer's Union, said, "the number of attempted suicides among incarcerated individuals usually rises in the summer." (The Marshall Project 2017).

Current Operational Costs

| Fan Size | Operating Year | Total Yearly Expenditure | Total Number of Fans | Cost per day to operate | 6-month Operational Expense |
|----------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 24" | 2018 | \$43,200,000 | 5,550 | \$2,928 | \$532,896 |
| 36" | 2018 | | 7,250 | \$6,960 | \$1,266,720 |
| 24" | 2019 | \$42,200,000 | 5,502 | \$2,760 | \$502,320 |
| 36" | 2019 | | 7,244 | \$6,720 | \$1,223,040 |

| Year | Approx. Worth | Total number of Individuals with personal fans | Cost per hour | Cost per day | Cost for 6 months | Cost of 2 fans |
|------|---------------|--|---------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 2018 | \$500,000 | \$400 | \$.04 | \$10,752 | \$1,956,864 | \$3,913,728 |
| 2018 | \$380,000 | \$672 | \$.06 | \$16,128 | \$2,935,296 | \$5,870,592 |

Repairs and Maintenance

| Year | Water Cooler Purchases & Repairs | Maintenance on Ice Machines |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2018 | \$163,000 | \$1,100,000 |
| 2019 | \$80,000 | \$1,200,000 |

Correctional Officer Safety - Hotter temperatures seem to be linked to more aggressive behavior which puts the officers at a heightened state of risk and injury.

- Health Risk** - TDCJ has a well-verified history of their officers and incarcerated individuals passing out or dying from the heat.
- Officer's inability to hear** - Large box fans may cause a security problem such as potential PREA violations, failure to hear someone cry out, and various communication problems.

Employee turnover - **Nearly 1 in 3 TDCJ officers are leaving the agency.** (Houston Chronicle 2019) January 25, 2019, we believe that extreme temperatures within TDCJ facilities contribute to employee turnover. Overall Officer turnover 29.5%, 40% within the first year of employment.

Potential Funding and Cost Saving Sources

Compassionate Release & MRIS program

According to a 2010 Texas Tribune article), compassionate release (or "medical parole") for elderly individuals (age 55 or older by TDCJ's definition) **would save the state approximately \$4700 per incarcerated individual per year.**

Closing down units

TDCJ has 9 units that are **over 100 years old**. Close down the units that are too costly to outfit, outdated, deteriorating, and have severe maintenance problems.

COVID-19 and Heat Relationship

iWave-C Model 4900-10 Commercial Air Cleaner COVID-19 and other Pathogens

We have recently learned about a new device TDCJ installed in various units called the iWave. iWave is an air purifying device that installs in any duct air conditioning system.

- Can ONLY be installed in Facilities that have a duct air conditioning system
- Independent studies have shown a 90-94% reduction in COVID**
- reduce pathogens, allergens (pollen), particles, viruses, bacteria or mold, and odors

Cost to install Air-Conditioning

Installation Cost - We believe TDCJ previous estimates for installing Air Conditioning in 79 units are overinflated (currently 70 units will require Air-Conditioning of those 48 units have partial Air-Conditioning). **For example, TDCJ estimated \$20 million to outfit the Pack unit with Air Condition yet the true cost was \$3,978,858.**

| Cost of Permit Air-Conditioning at the Pack Unit | Inmate capacity @ Pack | Cost per bed @ Pack |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| \$3,978,858 | 1478 | \$2,692.06 |
| Estimated cost to install A/C at 70 Units | Inmate capacity @ 70 Units | Cost per bed |
| \$ 332,116,750.14 | 123349 | \$2,692.06 |