



## Humane Temperatures Potential Cost Savings Report (Highlights)

See <https://www.tpcadvocates.org/> 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 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 <b>\$17,485,818.18</b> .	
$\$12,021,500.00 \div 11 = \$1,092,863.63$	Total Payout $\div$ # of cases = Potential payout
$\$1,092,863.63 \times 16 = \$17,485,818.18$	Potential payout $\times$ # 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 Worker's Compensation.
- An Ambulance ride can be anywhere between **\$350 and \$2000**, depending on the company.

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 are linked to more aggressive behavior which puts the officers at a heightened risk of injury.

- **Health Risk** - TDCJ has a well-verified history of its officers and incarcerated individuals passing out or dying from the heat.
- **Officer's inability to hear** - Large box fans may cause a security problems 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 of 40% within the first year of employment. Overall Officer turnover has increased to 40.54% (2021).

### Potential Funding and Cost Saving Sources

#### **Compassionate Release & MRIS program**

Elderly individuals, age 55 or older have a less than 2% recidivism rate. Paroling elderly individuals through compassionate release (or "medical parole") would save significantly on medical costs.

#### **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.

**Commissary and Trust fund Revenue** \$ 124,200,000.00

**Utilizing the Parole System for minor offenses** \$282,787,954.80

### Cost to install Air-Conditioning

**Installation Cost** - We believe TDCJ's previous estimates for installing Air Conditioning in 79 units are overinflated (currently 70 units will require Air-Conditioning of those 30 units that have partial Air-Conditioning). **For example, TDCJ estimated \$20 million to outfit the Pack unit with Air conditioning 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