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State of South Dakota  
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**

## **2024 Corrections Commission Annual Report**

The purpose of the Corrections Commission is to assist the Department of Corrections in examining criminal justice issues and developing initiatives to better address problems in corrections. The Corrections Commission is also required to approve the use of certain funds from the prison industries revolving fund to enhance, develop, or expand prison industries. The South Dakota Corrections Commission scheduled three meetings in calendar year 2024. The first meeting was held on May 21 but did not meet the quorum of five members present. The second meeting was held on September 5 and the third was on November 19. Members have the option to attend in person or virtually via Microsoft Teams.

### **Topics Reviewed by the Commission:**

#### **Pheasantland Industries Business:**

The commission was briefed on overall Pheasantland Industry services and productivity. DOC policy 800-04 *Pheasantland Industries Business Management* was reviewed which requires corrective measures for shops that do not make a profit. Two shops, upholstery and braille, were on corrective measure plans in 2024. However, both shops were able to create a net profit in the last quarter and were not required to remain on a corrective measure plan by the close of 2024.

Other updates included the following: two private sector businesses ceased operations in 2024; DOC worked with Southeast Technical College in Sioux Falls on the feasibility of establishing a diesel mechanic program in one of the vacated PI spaces; the cabinet shop was moved from the Sioux Falls campus to Mike Durfee State Prison as the SD Housing Governor's House Program is their primary customer; and an ERP software was implemented to better track inventory and offender work hours.

#### **Commissary Warehouse Program:**

The commission approved a new Pheasantland Industries business that allowed PI to assume operational management of the warehouse in Sioux Falls for the offender commissary program. The warehouse created jobs for 25 offenders at a rate of \$1/hr. Offenders working in this shop are trained in high-demand skills such as inventory management and forklift operation. A cost comparison analysis of commissary items was reviewed showing that over half of the items that were offered under the previous vendor were less expensive or within 10 cents of the previous price. The new menu also includes over 140 new items that were not offered previously.

#### **Lockdown at Sioux Falls Facilities:**

The department provided insight into the lockdown of the South Dakota State Penitentiary (Hill), Jameson Prison Annex, and Sioux Falls Minimum Center. The lockdown was a proactive security measure to implement a full campus search for dangerous contraband and was not a response to a fight, assault, or disturbance. Definitions and images were provided for contraband and dangerous contraband. Contraband was found in all three facilities and six offenders were estimated to be criminally charged.