

## **Cost of Housing BC Inmates Continues Upward Climb**

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For the past 26 years, Boulder City has paid Henderson to keep our local inmates over the pass and behind their bars.

Henderson started out charging \$21,600 for 800 prisoner days, but now the cost of that service is ripping off Boulder City residents to the tune of \$350,000 this past fiscal year.

At \$98.50 per prisoner day, that amounts to about 3,553 prisoner days.

(Ten persons serving 10 days in jail equals 100 prisoner days.)

In 1984, the two cities inked an agreement that cost Boulder City \$27 per prisoner day, but it wasn't until 1997 that the cost started going up. That year it jumped to \$39 for each prisoner day.

The history of inmate housing increases shows a 263 percent cost spike between 1984 and 2010, while the Consumer Price Index only increased by 215 percent.

- 1984 to 1997 -- \$27 per day
- 1997 to 1999 -- \$39 per day
- 1999 to 2005 -- \$50 per day
- 2005 to 2008 -- \$70 per day
- 2008 to 2009 -- \$83 per day
- 2009 to 2010 -- \$97 per day
- 2010 to 2011 -- \$98.50 per day

Likewise, the amount Boulder City has budgeted for prisoner housing also has gone up sizably, nearly doubling in the past five years alone.

- In 2006, \$180,000 was budgeted (about 2,571 prisoner days)
- In 2007, \$185,000 was budgeted (about 2,643 prisoner days)
- In 2008, \$200,000 was budgeted (about 2,410 prisoner days)
- In 2010, \$350,000 was budgeted (about 3,553 prisoner days)
- Figures for 2009 were not available.

According to Henderson's 2009 Annual Report for the city, Boulder City spent nearly \$192,000 for inmate housing costs in 2008, but that figure jumped to more than \$279,000 the following year. That's almost a 45 percent increase of \$86,000 in just one year.

The Henderson report also says, "Inmates are provided the basic essentials, such as clothing, food, hygiene items and showers while in custody. The proper living environment, based on American Corrections Association Standards, is provided."

By way of comparisons in terms of common-ticket items, in 1984 when inmate housing was cheap, a movie ticket cost \$2.50, regular gas as \$1.21 per gallon, a dozen eggs were \$1.01 and a gallon of milk cost \$2.26.