

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

Department of Corrections: Evaluating the May and June 2017 Security Incidents at the El Dorado Correctional Facility

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Senator Laura Kelly.

BACKGROUND

The Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) is a cabinet-level agency responsible for the state's nine correctional facilities, including the El Dorado Correctional Facility. The El Dorado facility has the capacity to house almost 1,200 minimum, medium and maximum security inmates. As of July 2017, the facility was authorized for a total of 485 FTE staff positions, but almost 20% were vacant. Recently, additional bed space at El Dorado has been used to house some maximum security inmates from Lansing Correctional Facility. Those inmates were transferred for reasons including anticipated future renovations to the Lansing Correctional Facility and staff shortages.

On June 29, 2017, there was a security incident at the El Dorado Correctional Facility. According to KDOC official, approximately 100 inmates refused orders to return to their cells from the gym and recreation yard. El Dorado officers waited until additional staff could arrive to move the inmates back to their cells. A KDOC official stated there were no injuries to staff or inmates during the event. However, the Wichita Eagle reported a section of a log book from the event showed some inmates were fighting and at least one might have had a weapon. An investigation of the event is being conducted by KDOC and some inmates have already been moved to a different facility. Two similar events—both of which involved inmates taking controls of certain sections of the prison—were reported by the Associated Press to have occurred earlier the week of May 8 and June 24.

Legislators have expressed concern that the security incidents may have been more serious and resulted in more injury or damage than reported by KDOC officials.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objectives listed below represent the questions that we would answer through our audit work. The proposed steps for each objective are intended to convey the type of work we would do, but are subject to change as we learn more about the audit issues and are able to refine our methodology.

Objective 1: What happened during the security incidents at the El Dorado Correctional Facility the week of May 8, June 24, and June 29, 2017? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Interview KDOC officials, review incident reports, records, and video footage related to the incidents to understand what happened at the El Dorado Correctional Facility the week of May 8, June 24, and June 29, 2017 and how KDOC responded to the events.

- Summarize what happened during the incidents, KDOC's response to them, and any findings made by the agency as a result of any internal investigations.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.