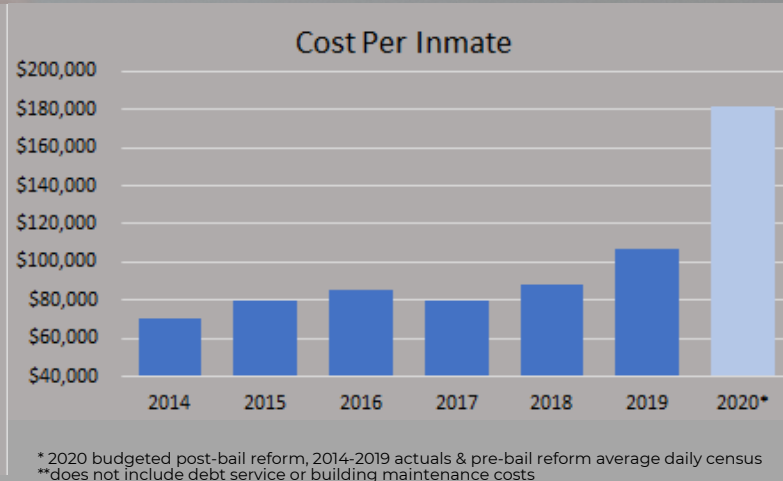
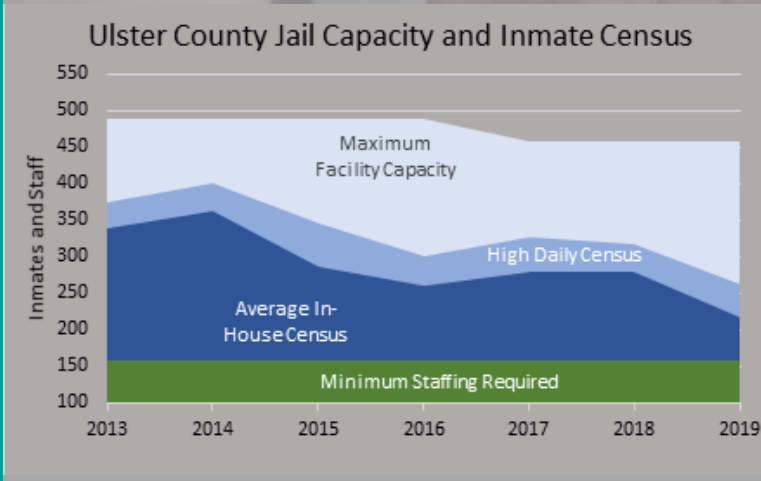
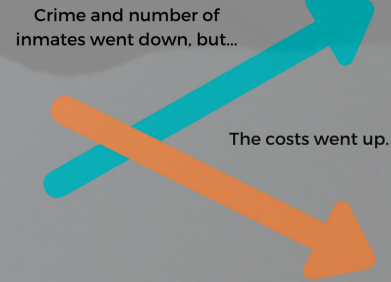


COMPTROLLER'S SNAPSHOT

Ulster County Law Enforcement Center was built for a large population. Reductions in crime rates have led to a declining inmate population, yet costs continued to rise escalating the cost per inmate substantially. Now with bail reform reducing populations further and the county facing revenue shortfalls, corrections expenditures should be adjusted to need so other programs can be funded.

WHY WE AUDITED the Corrections Unit of the Ulster County Sheriff: Corrections is 7% of the overall County budget. The facility was built to accommodate a jail population that never materialized and has drastically decreased from 2014 as the cost of managing the facility has regularly increased year after year.



What We Found

Maximum facility capacity, minimum staffing requirements, healthcare and food service contracts are larger than necessary.

The Annual Report of the Sheriff's Office presented to the Legislature understated expenses by \$4.8m due to timing of year-end close to the books.

Building maintenance, utilities, bond interest, insurance, and workers compensation are budgeted in other departments, understating the true cost of corrections by a minimum of \$2.28m.

What We Recommend

The County should call for review by the NYS Commission on Corrections to reduce capacity and staffing levels and lessen the cost of operations. Healthcare and food service contracts should be adjusted based on actual average daily censuses.

The timing issue between the year-end close and the release of the Sheriff's Annual Report should be resolved and an amendment with updated information be distributed when appropriate.

The Sheriff's Annual Report should include all costs associated with operating the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center, including maintenance and other costs.