

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS ADVISES LABETTE COUNTY OF INTENT TO TERMINATE CONTRACT FOR LABETTE CORRECTIONAL CONSERVATION CAMP FOR MEN

Kansas Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz today announced that the Department has notified the Board of County Commissioners for Labette County of the Department's intent to terminate the contract for the operation of the Labette Correctional Conservation Camp (LCCC) at Oswego effective July 1, 2009.

"In accordance with our contract with Labette County we have sent notice of our intent to terminate the contract for operation of the conservation camp. This decision is another of many difficult decisions which we are having to make in response to the budget reductions we are currently facing," Werholtz said. "On November 18, 2008, we announced that we were terminating the contract for operation of the Labette Women's Correctional Conservation Camp (LWCCC) effective January 1, 2009. The last offenders were transferred from the women's camp on Tuesday, December 30, 2008."

The conservation camp provides a sentencing alternative between community corrections intensive supervised probation and incarceration in a state correctional facility. LCCC has a capacity for 191 minimum custody men and had an average daily population in FY 2008 of 130. The Department of Corrections can place up to 50 minimum custody men at the camp.

LCCC is operated under contract with Labette County and funded by the Department of Corrections with state general fund revenues. Closing LCCC effective July 1, 2009 is expected to reduce the Department's budget request for FY 2010 by \$2.35 million.

"As with the decision to discontinue funding for the women's camp, we recognize that this decision will have an impact on community corrections agencies across the state through the loss of a sentencing alternative and on the economy in Labette County," Werholtz said. "We will be working with all affected parties to minimize the impact of this action."

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