

## Budget crisis gets worse – AFSCME working to avoid service cuts Suggest your cost-saving idea to the State

### A Message from AFSCME Iowa Council 61 President Danny Homan:

The good news is that George W. Bush is finally leaving office. The bad news is that because of the wrongheaded policies of the last eight years, we are suffering through a national economic crisis that is severely impacting state and local government budgets.

AFSCME International Union is working with the Congress to pass the economic recovery package that includes some aid to states and local government. It passed the House of Representatives on Jan. 28 and has now gone to the Senate.

Federal aid will help, but it won't be enough.

**Suggest Your  
Idea Today!**

Go to [www.afscmeiowa.org](http://www.afscmeiowa.org)  
and click on the “submit  
your idea” button



**AFSCME Council 61 Local Union Presidents met to discuss the state's budget crisis last December.**

Governor Culver is required by State code to have a balanced budget and has asked state agencies and the Regents to cut \$180 million to bring the current fiscal year into balance. The Governor has proposed additional cuts of \$400 million in the FY2010 budget.

We need to do everything we can here at home to reduce the size and scope of the coming cutbacks and save public employee jobs.

We have had extensive discussions with the Governor's office and they are willing to work with us in finding cost-saving measures that will help us try to lessen the blow of the cuts. The Governor has said that they will listen to our ideas. By contributing our ideas, we can help save jobs.

( Continued on back page)

## Budget crisis/continued from front page

**Now is the time for all of us to step up with our ideas.** You, the AFSCME Local Union leaders and member activists, are the eyes and ears of the union on the ground.

You know where money is being wasted on private contractors. You know where there are too many bosses supervising too few employees and pushing too much paper and red-tape. You know where new equipment or office furnishings or other non-essential items are being purchased at the direction of management. You know where the state could save

money by streamlining bureaucratic procedures and ending unnecessary duplication of effort. You know better ways of doing your job that would save the state money.

In order to better collect these ideas, and quickly find the proposals with the biggest possible impact, AFSCME Iowa Council 61 has put an online form at the top of our the web site, [www.afscmeiowa.org](http://www.afscmeiowa.org). Your ideas will go directly to my assistant, Mark Frymoyer, and then to the Governor’s office.

# AFSCME Council 61 wins \$110,000 in back pay for two union members

Two AFSCME Iowa Council 61 members have won arbitration cases resulting in substantial monetary awards.

Robert McFatrige, a youth service counselor at the Iowa Juvenile Home in Toledo (Local 2984), has won over \$80,000 in back pay, including vacation pay and accruals. An arbitrator ruled that McFatrige was unfairly discharged. McFatrige was discharged in January 2007 and returned to work in December 2008. He also won payment of medical bills incurred while he was off the job. “I appreciate what the union has done for me,” said McFatrige. McFatrige is an eight

year employee. Staff Representative Greg Lewis handled the case.

Johnson Lawson, a 24 year employee and residential officer at the Council Bluffs Community Based Corrections facility (Local 3289), also won back pay and got his job back. Lawson won \$30,000 plus his vacation pay, accruals, and payment of medical bills. Lawson was discharged in December 2007 and returned to work in November 2008. The case was handled by Mark Frymoyer, Council 61’s Assistant to the President, and Staff Representative Matt Butler.

February Arbitrations Currently Scheduled

Staff Rep.	Date	Unit	Issue
Rick Eilander	2-12	Des Moines Public Schools (2048)	2 Terminations (OWI)
Greg Lewis	2-25	Woodward (2990)	Contract language on job bidding
Greg Lewis	TBD	Jasper County (2840)	Discipline case

