Cost of executions skyrocketing in Texas, other states

Increased costs due to new execution drug

By Mike Ward

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Updated: 12:15 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24, 2012

As Texas prison officials face the likelihood that one of the three drugs used in the nation's busiest execution chamber might no longer be available, they are facing another reality: The cost of executions is skyrocketing as well.

A year ago, it cost the Texas Department of Criminal Justice $83.35 to carry out an execution. But since the state was forced to switch from one powerful sedative to another, the cost is now $1,286.86.

That means that the 12 executions carried out so far with the new drug have cost taxpayers more than $15,400, instead of $1,000.

"The cost of all three drugs has gone up, but the overall increase is because of pentobarbital," Jason Clark, a spokesman for the corrections agency, said Thursday.

Read the entire article HERE (http://www.statesman.com/news/texas-politics/cost-of-executions-skyrocketing-in-texas-other-states-2195940.html).