

**Court Security Projects**

**FY2001 Request: \$1,000,000**

**Reference No: 6929**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Health and Safety

**Category:** Public Protection

**Location:** Statewide

**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

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**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/1999 - 06/30/2002

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Courtroom security requirements.

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2001</b>	<b>FY2002</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gen Fund	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$495,250				\$1,995,250
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$495,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,995,250

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

**Project Description/Justification:**

Government facilities have increasingly become targets of acts of violence and terrorism. The increases in domestic violence cases as well as criminal cases have left the Court System with its share of security concerns. These concerns are further complicated by the fact that many court facilities also share quarters with other government agencies, thereby increasing concerns about physical safety. It is important that each courthouse maintain effective security, which simultaneously ensures fair, safe and orderly trials while creating a public atmosphere of respect for judicial proceedings. Security of court facilities and surrounding grounds can be substantially improved by employing strategic architectural features and advanced security technology.

The Alaska Court System is requesting \$1,995,250 to improve security in superior courts throughout the state. Securing a court facility should be comprehensive and should integrate operations and technology with the architecture. The facilities that house our courts vary in age from new to 30 years old. The older facilities have significant constraints both in architecture and in building systems which limit the applicability of a single solution for all courts. Courthouse security generally centers around such components as duress alarms, card access control systems, surveillance equipment and physical barriers, as well as sufficient court security officers and vigilance of staff. The following sections describe the physical elements of an integrated security system for courts.

Duress alarms are used to notify security personnel of an emergency situation. Alarm systems are already installed in most court facilities. Unfortunately, many of these systems are routed to a remote dispatch location and not to enforcement officers who are actually in the building. Only the courts in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer, and Kenai have Judicial Services Officers in the court facility. Only the Anchorage and Fairbanks court locations have access control and single point of entry detection.

Many courts nationally rely on entry control to provide a large measure of security. Metal detectors can be installed at a single entry to screen people and objects entering the buildings. The Anchorage and Fairbanks Trial Courts currently have these detection units. Metal detection units are needed for 10 additional major court locations. Each unit cost is

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approximately \$5,000. Additional costs will be incurred to install the equipment at each court.

Access control systems within the building are needed in Juneau, Ketchikan, Palmer and Kenai. Bulletproof benches are desired in all court locations. Anchorage courtrooms, being new, have this feature. A few benches at other locations have been fortified. With 28 trial court judges and 60 magistrates located outside Anchorage, the cost could range from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Portable detection units are an alternative for many court sites, which typically could not justify the cost for a permanently installed security system. These portable units can also be used in urban areas for high profile cases. The unit, consisting of a portable metal detector and handheld wand, cost approximately \$6,500.

Surveillance cameras in courtrooms can provide an added layer of security where personnel are available to monitor the cameras and respond. The cameras provide an additional benefit by allowing security officers to see what type of circumstance they have to face when an alarm is activated. A camera system costs about \$5,500 installed. New advances in technology allow for multiplexing of video signals, which allows up to six cameras to output to a single monitor and video cassette recorder.

Public counters in high activity courts should be protected by high-impact plastic panels mounted on the counter top. These clear, bulletproof panels allow visual contact with the public but provide a protective barrier for the court staff. Costs will vary depending on the size and configuration of the counters.

Cost estimates prepared for all superior courts and selected district courts totaling \$1,995,250 follow:

Juneau	300,000	Barrow	100,000	Kodiak	100,000
Ketchikan	180,000	Nome	90,000	Valdez	100,000
Sitka	80,000	Kotzebue	50,000	Homer	95,000
Petersburg	80,000	Palmer	140,000	Bethel	200,000
Wrangell	80,000	Kenai	140,000	Project Design/ Management	260,250