

**Court Security Projects****FY2003 Request: \$850,000****Reference No: 35898****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Renovation and Remodeling**Category:** Law and Justice**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2007**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:****Courtroom Security Requirements**

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2003</b>	<b>FY2004</b>	<b>FY2005</b>	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY2007</b>	<b>FY2008</b>	<b>Total</b>
Gen Fund	\$850,000	\$650,000	\$495,300				\$1,995,300
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>\$495,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,995,300</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<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, as a percentage of overall caseload, have left the Court System with concerns for security of staff and litigants. These concerns are further complicated by the fact that many court facilities also share quarters with other high risk government agencies, thereby increasing concerns about physical safety for those who enter court buildings. 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 \$1,995,300 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 physical design and in building systems, which limit the applicability of a single solution for all courts. Courthouse security generally centers around such physical components as duress alarms, cards access systems, entry screening and surveillance of high risk areas. In addition to control systems, surveillance equipment, and other monitoring or alarm systems, several locations still need sufficient court security officers. The following sections describe the physical elements of an integrated security system for these courts.

Nationally, many courts rely on entry control to provide a large measure of security. Access control consists of two components: a badging system to control entry at exterior doors and metal detection equipment installed at a single public entry to screen people and objects entering the buildings. (Installation of metal detection equipment necessitates funding contractual services in the operating budget to operate the equipment. Only the Anchorage and Fairbanks Trial Courts currently have both of these detection components.

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space), are needed in Juneau, Ketchikan, Palmer and Kenai. To install access control at these locations is estimated to cost \$440,000. In addition, the Anchorage court locations need software upgrade for the existing access control system, \$55,000.

Walk-through metal detection units are needed for ten multiple-courtroom locations. Each walk-through unit costs approximately \$6,500. Additional costs (averaging \$6,000/site) will be incurred to install the equipment at each location. In addition, due to the volume of people entering the facility, x-ray units for screening packages and materials brought in by the public (costing \$28,000 each) could be purchased for 3 locations: Kenai, Palmer and Juneau, while the two x-ray units existing in Anchorage need to be replaced.

Portable detection units are an alternative for many court sites, which typically could not justify the expenditure for an in-place security system. These portable units can also be used in urban areas for additional security for high-risk cases. The unit, consisting of a portable metal detector and handheld wand, costs approximately \$6,500 each plus installation of power (average \$6,000 per site). These are recommended for ten court sites, including those constructed to accommodate superior court trials with a traveling judge.

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 personnel located within the building. Efforts have been made to have alarms report to the closest law enforcement agency. However, in many communities response to these alarms is slow as other duties take precedence. This security component cannot be solved with technology alone.

Bulletproof benches are desired in all court locations. Anchorage and Fairbanks courtrooms, being new, have this feature. A few judicial benches at other locations have been fortified. With 28 trial court judges and 60 magistrates still needing protected bench areas, the cost to provide bullet-proofing for all judicial officers statewide is estimate to cost \$550,000.

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 complete video monitoring system costs about \$8,500/courtroom (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. Providing these systems for multiple courtrooms in 12 superior court locations is estimated to cost \$204,250.

Public counters in high use courts should be protected by high-impact plastic panels mounted on the counter top. These clear, bulletproof panels allow visual and audio contact with the public but provide a protective barrier for the court staff. This is needed for eleven of the locations listed below. The costs will vary depending on the size and configuration of the counters, but are estimated to total \$356,000.

All estimated costs include project and engineering costs. Following is a listing of superior courts and superior court trial sites that require security work:

Anchorage	Kenai	Sitka
Barrow	Ketchikan	Petersburg
Bethel	Kodiak	Wrangell
Dillingham	Kotzebue	Valdez
Fairbanks	Nome	Unalaska
Juneau	Palmer	Homer