

Justice Information and Communication Project**FY2004 Request: \$1,065,000****Reference No: 37742****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment**Category:** Law and Justice**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Statewide replacement of court system technology and communications resources.

Funding:	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
Gen Fund	\$1,065,000	\$650,000	\$633,000				\$2,348,000
Total:	\$1,065,000	\$650,000	\$633,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,348,000

<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	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

FY2003 - \$1,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

The Alaska Court System requests \$1,065,000 for the third phase of a project to address replacement costs for the court system's information technology and communications resources. Much of the court system's current information and communications infrastructure has been in place well beyond its expected useful life.

Telephone Communications Systems

Modernization of the court's phone systems primarily has occurred when facilities are either constructed or leased. The majority of court locations continue to use older systems that have limited functionality. Due to a lack of available funding, new or newly leased courthouses are forced to continue using old phone switches. These older telecommunications systems do not have the capability of upgrading to meet the modern demands for voice, data and digital services. They do not uniformly provide many of the modern services that court users expect (voice-mail, automatic call distribution, conference calling, call accounting and computer telephone integration). Most of the phone systems in the court system do not support modern digital operations and do not provide modern digital functionality. Funding acquired for this project will be used to address improved phone systems in Petersburg, Wrangell, Nome, Barrow, Kenai, Unalaska, Dillingham, Cordova, Naknek, Palmer, Nenana, and Healy.

The Alaska Court System regularly conducts telephonic hearings to minimize travel costs for the courts, the Department of Law, OPA, the Public Defender, as well as private attorneys, litigants and witnesses. Teleconferencing is also used extensively to conduct meetings without incurring travel costs.

Technological Equipment

The court must now provide a comprehensive network of functional systems, which share information and are accessible by the various users of court services, including the public. The operating platforms of these systems must be powerful enough to run functional programs, and have sufficient capacity to store and retrieve a substantial amount of data. The

programs themselves must be flexible enough to adapt to modifying procedures, legislative mandates and to meet the challenge of integrating vital information with critical agencies such as the department of public safety. To this purpose the court system must provide a planned technology infrastructure that will meet these demands, supported by a consistent evaluation and improvement process.

Through the first and second phases of this project, the court system has been installing new technological equipment and systems. Much of this technology has a life expectancy of approximately five years. With the installation of new systems, it is optimal to have a planned life-cycle replacement of equipment and software running on this equipment. At the same time, the court system must also address the problem of aged, non-standard equipment still located in several courts. A scheduled replacement of this equipment will establish uniform technical resources throughout the state. Funding acquired through this project will be used to replace aged computer systems, software applications and other technological resources throughout the court system on a priority basis. This replacement will be accomplished through a planned, life-cycle approach.

Summary

Through capital funding, the court system has been tackling large systemic problems in the areas of technology. Without a funding source to continue and sustain these efforts, the court system will lose much ground in its attempt to modernize court operations. The court system must also have adequate communications systems to conduct its important business throughout the state. Without a source of funding to purchase switches and peripheral communications devices, the court's communications systems will begin to fail.