

Agency: Alaska Court System**Project Title:****Project Type:** Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Boney Courthouse Campus Renovation

State Funding Requested: \$18,148,100
One-Time Need**House District:** Statewide (1-40)**Brief Project Description:**

Funding is requested for a major remodel of the Boney Courthouse and a minor remodel of the Nesbett Courthouse to accommodate additional judges, provide secure prisoner containment and transport within the Boney Courthouse, and perform seismic upgrades as practicable and in compliance with building codes.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project:** \$18,148,100*There is no other funding needed***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Anchorage court campus is comprised of three main buildings – the Boney Courthouse, the Nesbett Courthouse, and the Snowden Administration Building. In 2007, the Boney facility housed the Appellate Courts, the state law library and a few smaller trial court functions. The Nesbett facility housed Anchorage trial court operations and the Snowden property housed statewide administrative support functions such as fiscal services, information services, training, human resources, and facilities management.

The Nesbett Courthouse construction was completed in early 1996. The court system originally requested funds sufficient to construct space for anticipated growth in court caseload and functions. However, the Nesbett Courthouse was full to capacity the day it was occupied because the project funding was insufficient to provide for the desired future expansion. At the time it was constructed, Nesbett was the only state-of-the-art courthouse in Alaska with regard to secure prisoner handling and courtroom technology.

When the Nesbett Courthouse was constructed, the Boney Courthouse, occupied since 1974, continued to be used at about 60% capacity. In the ten years since occupancy of Nesbett, the trial courts have experienced increased caseload and implemented innovative case processing for specialized case types (substance abuse and mental health), requiring additional judges and specialized therapeutic courts. These program changes have also resulted in different space requirements and utilization in both the Nesbett and Boney courthouses. Additionally, since FY07, the Anchorage court received funding for an additional district court judge and may be seeking funding in FY11 for additional judges and related support staff.

As trial court operations have grown, some discreet units that can operate independent of other trial court operations have been relocated from the Nesbett to the Boney Courthouse. Several small remodeling efforts to accommodate these changes have resulted in full occupancy of the Boney building but with less efficient space utilization. Because the Boney facility has a limited prisoner containment system, the types of cases that can be heard at this court facility are restricted. Operationally, the court system is at the point where it can no longer relocate trial court functions from the Nesbett to the

Boney Courthouse without major renovations to the Boney Courthouse or the construction of a new facility.

Although the Boney Courthouse is over 30 years old, structural and code evaluations conducted in 1999 by engineers and architects indicate that this building has the structural integrity to last another 30 years with replacement of major building systems such as elevators, heat delivery and distribution systems, and portions of the mechanical, electrical, water, and air distribution systems. Additionally, the security systems must be expanded to the Boney Courthouse to ensure public safety and prisoner containment. Secure containment of in-custody defendants and systems replacement requires a significant remodel of the first through fourth floors, which consist of courtrooms, chambers, and a myriad of trial court activities.

The Boney Courthouse should be upgraded as practicable to address current seismic code requirements for the structural systems. These system replacements and upgrades are expensive, but are necessary and are less costly than construction of a new facility. New square footage equal to the renovations proposed in this request (145,000SF) would cost an estimated \$50,750,000 at present day construction costs. To accommodate critical trial court operations on the Anchorage campus, it is most cost effective to renovate the Boney facility.

Capital funding received in FY07 for this project was used to remodel the third floor of the Boney Courthouse to accommodate three district court judges and courtrooms for their proceedings. Additional capital funding received in FY09 is being used to remodel the remaining areas of the third floor to accommodate three judges who were relocated from the Nesbett Courthouse and for a remodel of the first floor to construct an arraignment courtroom and a secured prisoner transport area comprised of a prisoner entry, holding cells, and an elevator. These renovations will permit a small number of proceedings involving in-custody defendants to take place in the Boney Courthouse.

The balance of the remodeling work is needed to 1) accommodate district court functions on remaining floors within Boney, 2) consolidate library staff and operations for improved efficiency, allowing operations to continue within a reduced footprint, 3) remodel the holding cell areas in the basement of the Boney facility to permit safe prisoner transport and holding, 4) relocate several smaller divisions from the Nesbett Courthouse to support district court functions in the Boney Courthouse and to accommodate superior court functions in the Nesbett Courthouse; and, 5) remodel the Nesbett Courthouse to accommodate large juries and conferences, provide an additional courtroom, and accommodate proceedings and divisions moved from the Boney Courthouse to the Nesbett Courthouse.

Towards this project, the court system received \$1,430,000 in FY07; \$4,550,000 in FY09 and \$5,000,000 in FY10. Also in FY10, the court system received \$1,975,000 for the Boney courthouse through the appropriation for deferred maintenance. To complete the renovations for the Anchorage Campus project, the court system is seeking \$18,148,100.

Project Timeline:

FY 2011

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Alaska Court System

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No