

Court Security Projects

FY2013 Request: \$1,700,000

Reference No: 47151

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Law and Justice

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Rhonda McLeod

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request includes projects to provide physical security for the public and others in court facilities statewide.

Funding:	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,700,000						\$1,700,000
Total:	\$1,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,700,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" 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	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- FY2010 - \$1,190,000
- FY2009 - \$150,000
- FY2007 - \$750,000
- FY2005 - \$500,000
- FY2004 - \$500,000

Project Description/Justification:

Recent and on-going national events and state incidents highlight the need to protect the public and court staff in both rural and urban locations. Government facilities have increasingly become targets of acts of violence and terror. The increases in domestic violence and criminal cases, as a percentage of overall caseload, have left the court system with concerns for security of litigants, jurors, victims, witnesses, attorneys, and staff. These concerns are further complicated by the fact that many court facilities also share quarters with other governmental agencies whose risk of threat is even higher, 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 architecture designed to improve security and advance security technology. This is a multi-year project.

Funds appropriated to date have been used or are slated for the following statewide projects: screening equipment in Anchorage, Palmer, Kenai, Ketchikan, Bethel and Juneau; ballistic shielding of customer service counters; ballistic shielding of judge's benches in various courtrooms throughout

the state; access control systems; surveillance equipment; remodels and expansion of Judicial Services (JS) prisoner holding and delivery areas and creation of juvenile holding cells (Anchorage); security lighting in parking garages; and upgrades or replacement of duress system.

A significant portion of the funding requested is needed to address critical security issues at the rural courts, such as Craig, Petersburg, Wrangell, Barrow, Nome, Kotzebue, Kodiak, Glennallen, Homer, Dillingham, Valdez, Unalaska, Aniak, and Nenana. Funds are also needed for screening equipment at high-risk sites, and for construction of holding cells at locations where none are available. This request includes costs for engineering, bid document preparation, and project management costs.

Nationally, many courts rely on entry control at all exterior access points 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. Only Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Palmer, Ketchikan, and Kenai trial courts are equipped with both of these components. As this equipment ages, a cycled replacement of these devices is planned. For the Fairbanks court, a second screening station is desired to expeditiously conduct screening services for the public and to avert long lines from developing outside on busy or cold winter days.

Portable detection units are an alternative for many court locations that do not have the space or need for a permanent in-place security system. These portable units can also be used in urban areas to provide additional security for high-risk cases. The units, which consist of a portable metal detector and handheld wand, cost approximately \$6,500 each, plus installation of power estimated to cost approximately \$6,000 per installation site. These portable units are recommended for fifteen court locations, which include those constructed to accommodate superior court trials presided over by a traveling superior court judge. The total for these units is \$187,500.

In addition to exterior control, interior access control and segregated prisoner delivery pathways are needed to prevent the public from accessing secured private areas of the courthouse: chambers, corridors, and clerks' offices. This interior access control typically includes secured doors, a badging system or cipher locks on secure doors in dividing walls, and a camera/intercom system for requesters to seek entrance to a secured area. Statewide, there several areas that require improved physical interior and exterior control within the facilities. Courts in Valdez, Dillingham, and Kotzebue require significant renovations to conduct important public proceedings in a safe and secure manner.

Public counters in high volume courts should be protected by bulletproof shielding below the counter and high-impact safety panels mounted on the counter top. These clear, bulletproof panels allow visual and audio contact with the public but provide a protective barrier for court staff. The cost for installation in the courts requiring this protection will vary by location depending on the size and configuration of the counters, but is estimated to total \$200,000.

Bulletproof shielding for courtroom judicial benches is needed in all court locations. Although many judicial benches have been fortified, the court system has identified 22 court benches throughout the state that still need ballistic shielding for protection. Funding to complete some of this work was appropriated in FY2010, but a balance of \$200,000 is required to complete this work.

Duress alarms are used to notify court security officers of an emergency situation. While alarm systems are already installed in most court facilities, the alarms do not notify court security officers of the exact location of the activated alarm. Unfortunately, many of these systems are routed to a remote dispatch location and not to enforcement officers who are stationed in the building. Efforts have been made to have alarm signals sent to the closest law enforcement agency. However, in many communities response to these alarms is slow, as other duties take precedence. This security deficit cannot be solved with technology alone, however, the estimate for providing or improving duress alarms where needed is \$85,000.

Surveillance cameras in screening entries, clerks' counters, lobbies, corridors and other high-risk areas will improve security in those locations where judicial services personnel are available to monitor the cameras and respond. The cameras allow court security officers to view the event circumstances when an alarm is activated. A complete video monitoring system costs approximately \$5,000 to install in each location in each courthouse. New advances in technology allow for multiplexing of video signals, which allows up to four cameras to output to a single monitor and recording device. Providing these systems at the remaining superior court locations without this equipment is estimated to cost \$108,000.

Holding cells should be provided in all superior court locations, and several other court locations where criminal proceedings may be held and a local holding facility is not available. Without holding cells, the Judicial Services officers are required to hold prisoners in court staff areas during breaks in proceedings, presenting a critical safety and security concern. At this time, holding cells are needed in the Nome courthouse. The estimated cost for the Nome project is \$30,000 (including plumbing for a security toilet). There are currently holding cells at Dillingham, but the doors are not secure and require replacement for a cost of \$5,000. In Anchorage, prisoner delivery to the Boney Courthouse is performed by Judicial Services and Anchorage Police Department officers through an exterior secure door which leads to the holding cells. However, the parking area for dropping off prisoners is directly adjacent to staff parking. A screening wall is required to visually screen and secure the area for prisoner delivery and ensure the safety of the staff and public. The cost for this work is estimated at \$80,000.

Finally, the domestic relations area in the Ketchikan courthouse needs remodeling to improve safety, security and staff efficiency for managing these challenging and emotionally volatile case types. This remodel is estimated to cost \$779,500. Project management and engineering costs related to the important security projects described in this narrative are estimated to be \$300,000.