

Court Security Projects

FY2017 Request: \$1,351,200
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: 07/01/2016 - 06/30/2021

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This request is for funding an on-going multi-year project to provide for physical security for the public, judges, staff, jurors, and other users in court facilities statewide.

Funding:	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$1,351,200	\$5,191,500					\$6,542,700
Total:	\$1,351,200	\$5,191,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,542,700

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

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P97 L32 SB18 \$1,000,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P152 L18 SB160 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P37 L17 SB75 \$1,190,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P174 L15 SB221 \$150,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P110 L3 SB231 \$750,000
- Sec1 Ch159 SLA2004 P50 L6 SB283 \$500,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2003 P55 L27 SB100 \$500,000

Project Description/Justification:

- Background.** The increases in domestic violence, domestic relations, and criminal cases, as a percentage of overall caseload, have left the court system with concerns for the security of litigants, jurors, victims, witnesses, attorneys, and staff. These concerns are further complicated by the fact that many court facilities share quarters with other governmental agencies, which have their own threat risk, 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 court proceedings while creating a public atmosphere of respect for judicial proceedings.

Securing a court facility should be comprehensive and integrate security operations and technology with the architecture. The facilities that house courts vary in age from new to over 40 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. Modern courthouse security generally incorporates physical components such as a building-wide notification system (or duress systems), card access systems, fencing, entry screening, and surveillance of high risk areas. Some court locations lack these basic physical components, and several also lack sufficient court security officers. (The Department of Public Safety is aware of this and is working to address it.)

The amount requested for FY17 - FY22 includes the unfunded projects from the FY15 and FY16 requests and additional projects that have been identified for improved security in court facilities throughout the state.

2. **FY17 Priority Need.** Recognizing the limited revenue stream allocable for capital projects, for FY17 the court system is requesting **\$1,351,200** to complete only the highest priority security projects statewide. The bulk of this funding request is for security remodels at the Anchorage Jail Court, Kotzebue, and Kodiak, and the addition of a Prisoner Transport Elevator in Ketchikan courthouse. Additionally, this funding includes the completion of on-going security upgrades in the Palmer and Kenai Courthouses. At Kotzebue and Kodiak, there is no security screening, so staff are exposed to very high security risks, particularly after court proceedings involving domestic violence, when there may be disgruntled parties, who would have easy access and opportunity to confront the judge. Additionally, at Kotzebue, because all exits from the courtroom are public, there is no safe way for judicial staff to contact troopers for help as they may be unable to access the duress system.

Another security improvement planned for the Kotzebue and Kodiak courts is the installation of a security surveillance system with audio capability. Without surveillance equipment, it is difficult for troopers to respond to duress alarms without knowing the specifics of an emergency situation and type of assistance needed. It is extremely dangerous for the troopers to enter a courtroom "blind" and with surveillance systems, the officers would be capable of visually and audibly assessing the magnitude of the threat.

Without these security measures in place, the public is placed at a higher risk of being involved in or exposed to a threatening situation. These security projects provide contiguous secure court areas, with private circulation between clerks' office, judicial areas and courtrooms. The new construction would maintain the division between the private, secure court areas and the public areas. Limiting public access to the secure areas will provide improved security for all parties participating in court proceedings.

3. **Particular Security Needs requested for FY17.** The following sections describe the physical elements of an integrated security system for the courts that lack the basic components of a secure facility.

A. **Access Control.** Nationally, many courts rely on entry control at all exterior access points to provide a large measure of security. Exterior access control consists of three components: a badging system, keying or keypad locking system to control entry at exterior doors, intrusion control systems, and metal detection equipment installed at a single public entry to screen people and objects entering the buildings. Additionally, access must often be controlled at interior points - entry to secure areas (corridors, chambers, clerks' offices, etc.) or segregated

circulation areas (prisoner holding) using badge readers, alarms, intercoms, and remote lockdown switches with cameras for assessing those who desire entry. The court system is now requesting **\$33,300** for access systems, **\$30,000** for intrusion alarms, and **\$117,500** for lockdown switches at courtrooms.

B. Physical Barriers. In addition to access control, interior physical barriers, segregated prisoner delivery pathways and intelligent proximity of controlled private spaces are required to keep the public, prisoners, and staff separated and to provide secure routes for staff to access courtrooms from the private areas of the courthouse, such as from judicial chambers, corridors, and clerks' offices. Interior barriers typically include building secure dividing walls, providing locking doors in existing walls, providing non-breachable customer service counters and judge's benches, as well as relocating secure court areas adjacent to each other and providing adequate and safe separation for parties within courtrooms. Secure prisoner delivery holding cells and pathways require separate entrances, delivery elevators, stairs, corridors, and holding areas built to safely and securely withstand abuse and isolate in-custody defendants appropriately. Exterior barriers include security fencing and gates for staff parking areas, and enclosures for building utilities. The court system is requesting **\$185,000** for interior physical barriers, **\$660,000** for prisoner delivery construction and **\$13,500** for exterior barriers.

C. Ballistic Shielding for Judicial Benches and Clerk's Counters. Shielding for the courtroom judicial benches and clerk's customer service counters is desired in all court locations. Many of the newer locations were constructed with this feature, and several judicial benches and clerk's counters at certain locations have been fortified with shielding as remodeling projects were completed. All new leased contracts require the landlord to provide ballistic shielding in these areas. Still, several court locations still need ballistic shielding for protection; the cost to complete this is **\$143,000**.

D: Exterior Lighting: Bright, safe, continuous lighting at court building entrances, parking areas, building perimeter, pathways to parking and surrounding public areas is critical for the safety and security of staff and public. Well-lit spaces deter vandalism and dangerous interactions. The cost to provide this lighting is the most dangerous locations is estimated at **\$37,000**.

E: Duress and Intrusion. Duress and intrusion alarms are used to notify court security officers of an emergency situation. While alarm systems are already installed in most court facilities, many of these systems are routed to a remote dispatch location as there are no enforcement officers stationed in the building and most locations need addressable systems so that security officers can precisely locate the duress alarm within the building. (Only six larger urban courts have judicial services officers located within the building.) Efforts have been made to have alarm signals sent to the closest law enforcement agency; but in many communities, response to these alarms is slow, as other duties take precedence. This security deficit cannot be solved with technology alone, but would be partially addressed by providing more reliable, functioning, and dependable duress systems at the rural courts. Additionally, for a more comprehensive duress system at the larger courts the court system has begun installing more full building wide notifications systems that integrate with the duress systems. The estimate for expanding existing duress systems and to provide building wide notification systems at remaining critical court locations is **\$131,900**

4. Particular Security Needs requested for FY18 - FY22.

The following amounts request amounts reflect the same type of work as described above, but in locations where the need is less critical, or has less immediate urgency:

A. Access Control. The court system is requesting **\$349,400** for access systems, **\$217,300** intrusion systems, and **\$150,000** for screening equipment.

B. Physical Barriers. The court system is requesting **\$620,400** for interior physical barriers, **\$210,000** for prisoner delivery barriers, and **\$255,100** for exterior barriers.

C. Ballistic Shielding or Glazing for Judicial Benches, Clerk's Counters and Offices. **\$700,100**

D: Exterior Lighting. **\$77,300**

E: Duress: **\$1,739,100**

F: Video Surveillance: Essential court security also includes monitoring and surveillance of public areas, which act as an immediate deterrent to threats and a means of alerting judicial services officers of problems while producing a record for forensic evidence after a security breach or issue occurs. Surveillance cameras in entryways, clerks' offices, lobbies, corridors, and other high-risk areas will provide improved security in those locations where judicial services personnel are available to monitor the cameras and respond. A basic video monitoring system costs approximately \$5,000 to install at each camera location in each courthouse. Providing more advanced systems at additional superior court or high-risk locations that currently have no surveillance systems is estimated to cost **\$872,800**.