

**Court Security Improvements**

**FY2022 Request: \$0**  
**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:** 07/01/2020 - 06/30/2025 **Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

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

<b>Funding:</b>	<b>FY2021</b>	<b>FY2022</b>	<b>FY2023</b>	<b>FY2024</b>	<b>FY2025</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
1139 AHFC Div	\$1,551,100						\$1,551,100
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,551,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,551,100

<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"/> Ongoing
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
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P18 L17 SB138 \$1,351,200
- Sec1 Ch16 SLA2013 P97 L32 SB18 \$1,000,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P152 L18 SB160 \$1,700,000
- Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P119 L5 SB46 \$1,231,600
- 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:**

Securing a court facility should be comprehensive and integrate security operations and technology with the architecture. 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.

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 needed for FY21 - FY26 includes the unfunded projects from the FY17 request and additional projects that have been identified for improved security in court facilities throughout the state.

**FY21 Priority Need.** Recognizing the limited revenue stream allocable for capital projects, for FY21, the court system needs \$1,551,100 to complete only the highest priority security projects statewide. The bulk of this funding need is for a large security remodel at the Kotzebue courthouse, and for several Clerks' Customer Service Counter and Judge's Bench security upgrades. Additionally, this funding includes several smaller projects to:

1) "harden" courthouse perimeters via new lighting, fencing, access control, window privacy and security treatments, utility enclosures

2) repair, upgrade or modernize computer and duress systems and door hardware

At Kotzebue, 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 others in the courtroom), the judge, or court staff.

Additionally at this location, 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. Until needed security measures are in place in Kotzebue, the public is placed at a higher risk of being involved in or exposed to a threatening situation. This security project provides contiguous secure court areas, with private circulation between clerks' offices, 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.

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

**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.

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For FY21, the court system needs \$29,800 for an access system and intercom at Nome and Kotzebue and \$13,500 for upgrades to door and hardware at Klawock, and Utqiagvik.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$43,300 for an access system at Valdez; and \$150,000 for metal detection equipment at Petersburg, Wrangell, Glennallen, Homer, Palmer, Unalaska, Valdez, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Nenana.

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 secure doors and hardware in existing walls, providing non-breachable customer service counters and judges' 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-custodies appropriately. Exterior barriers include security fencing and gates for staff parking areas, window hardener (with film or blinds) and enclosures for building utilities.

For FY21, the court system needs \$950,000 for interior physical barrier walls and courtroom relocation at Kotzebue; \$268,100 for customer service counters at Haines, Aniak, Delta Junction, Hooper Bay, and Tok; \$40,000 for a judge's bench at Hoonah, \$15,000 for a new holding cell door at Utqiagvik; \$38,500 for window hardening at Hoonah, Nome, Palmer, Valdez, and Delta Junction; \$19,300 for utility enclosures at Kotzebue, Palmer, Valdez, and Nenana; and \$140,000 for fencing and gate around the Boney Parking Garage.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$780,400 to relocate staff areas to provide a secured area at Valdez, Kenai; \$80,000 for customer service counter at Hoonah; \$5,000 to create a Monitor viewing room at Fairbanks; \$68,500 for window hardening at Boney and Nenana; \$5,000 for utility enclosure at Delta Junction; and \$200,000 for fencing and gates at Wrangell, Kotzebue, Valdez, and Nenana parking areas and Emmonak pilings; and \$103,200 for screening wall at Prisoner delivery at Boney.

Ballistic Shielding for Judicial Benches and Clerks' Counters. Shielding for courtroom judicial benches and clerks' customer service counters is desired in all court locations. Many of the newer locations were constructed with this feature, and several judicial benches and clerks' 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 need ballistic shielding for protection.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$133,000 for shielding of judicial benches in Angoon, Juneau, Ketchikan, Homer, Kenai, Naknek, Palmer and Delta Junction; and \$132,100 for shielding of clerks' counters at Snowden and Nesbett.

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Exterior Lighting. Bright, safe, continuous lighting at court building entrances, parking areas, building perimeter, and 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.

For FY21, the court system needs \$5,500 exterior building lighting at Delta Junction.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$5,000 for exterior building lighting at Emmonak.

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.

For FY21, the court system needs \$10,900 for repairs to duress alarms at Haines.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$257,300 for intrusion alarms at Hoonah, Ketchikan, Kotzebue, Palmer, and Valdez; and \$1,705,400 for building wide notification systems at Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, Nome, Boney, Nesbett, Dillingham, Glennallen, Homer, Kodiak, Naknek, Unalaska, Valdez, Bethel, and Fairbanks.

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. Costs include licensing, WAN upgrades, and CCTV headend software.

For FY21, the court system needs \$20,500 at Kodiak and Fairbanks for WAN and software necessary for CCTV systems.

For FY22-26, the court system needs \$480,500 for CCTV systems at Ketchikan, Skagway, Wrangell, Utqiagvik, Kotzebue, Nome, Anchorage Youth Court, Dillingham, Glennallen, Valdez, and Bethel; \$40,000 to intertie duress with CCTV at Ketchikan and Kotzebue, and \$25,200 for CCTV headend upgrades at Nesbett and Fairbanks.