

Court Security Projects

FY2002 Request: \$500,000
Reference No: 34032

AP/AL: Appropriation**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Category:** Law and Justice**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

Courtroom security requirements

Funding:	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Gen Fund	\$500,000	\$850,000	\$645,250				\$1,995,250
Total:	\$500,000	\$850,000	\$645,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,995,250

<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:**Project Description/Justification:**

Government facilities have increasingly become targets of acts of violence and terrorism. The increases in domestic violence cases as well as criminal cases have left the Court System with its share of security concerns. These concerns are further complicated by the fact that many court facilities also share quarters with other government agencies, thereby increasing concerns about physical safety. It is important that each courthouse maintain effective security that simultaneously ensures fair, safe and orderly trials while creating a public atmosphere of respect for judicial proceedings. Employing strategic architectural features and advanced security technology can substantially improve security of court facilities and surrounding grounds.

The Alaska Court System is requesting \$1,995,250 over 3 years to improve security in superior courts throughout the state. Securing a court facility should be comprehensive and should integrate operations and technology with the architecture. The facilities that house our courts vary in age from new to 30 years old. The older facilities have significant constraints both in architecture and in building systems, limiting the applicability of a single solution for all courts. Courthouse security generally centers on physical components such as duress alarms, card control systems, surveillance equipment and physical barriers as well as sufficient court security officers and vigilance of staff. The following sections describe the physical elements of an integrated security system for courts.

Duress alarms are used to notify security personnel of an emergency situation. Alarm systems are already installed in most court facilities. Unfortunately many of these systems are routed to a remote dispatch location and not to enforcement officers who are actually in the building. Only the courts in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Palmer and Kenai have Judicial Service officers in the court facility. Only the Anchorage and Fairbanks court locations have access control and single point of entry detection.

Many courts nationally rely on entry control to provide a large measure of security. Metal detectors can be installed at a single entry to screen people and objects entering the building. The Anchorage and Fairbanks Trial Courts currently have these detection units. Metal detection units are needed for 10 additional major court locations. Each unit costs approximately \$5000. Additional costs will be incurred to install the equipment in each court.

Building access control systems are needed in Juneau, Ketchikan, Palmer and Kenai. The Anchorage access control system needs to be upgraded to eliminate problems with system failures. Bulletproof benches are desired in all court locations. Anchorage courtrooms, being new, have this feature. A few benches at other locations have been fortified. With 28 trial court judges and 60 magistrates located outside Anchorage, the cost could range from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Portable detection units are an alternative for many court sites that typically could not justify the expenditure for an in-place security system. These portable units can also be used in urban areas for high profile cases. The unit, consisting of a portable metal detector and handheld wand, costs approximately \$6,500.

Surveillance cameras in courtrooms can provide an added layer of security where personnel are available to monitor the cameras and respond. The cameras provide an additional benefit by allowing security officers to see what type of circumstance they have to face when an alarm is activated. A camera system costs about \$5,500 installed. New advances in technology allow for multiplexing of video signals, allowing up to six cameras to output to a single monitor and video.

Public counters in high use courts should be protected by high-impact plastic panels mounted on the counter top. These clear, bulletproof panels allow visual contact with the public but provide a protective barrier for the court staff. Costs will vary depending on the size and configuration of the counters.

Cost estimates prepared for all superior courts and selected district courts follow:

Anchorage	35,000
Juneau	300,000
Ketchikan	180,000
Sitka	80,000
Petersburg	80,000
Wrangell	80,000
Barrow	100,000

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Nome	90,000
Kotzebue	50,000
Palmer	140,000
Kenai	140,000
Kodiak	100,000
Valdez	100,000
Homer	95,000
Bethel	200,000
Project Design/Management	225,250