

Court Security Projects

FY2009 Request: \$150,000
Reference No: 43155

AP/AL: Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment**Category:** Law and Justice**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Rhonda McLeod**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)264-8215**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2013**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is a multi-year project. Recent national events and state incidents highlight the need to protect the public and court staff in both rural and urban facilities. First year funding will be used to complete an integrated security system for superior court sites and security upgrades to the Judicial Services areas in the Palmer and Kenai Courthouses. Future year's funding will include a secured exit from the Anchorage Jail courtroom and improved lighting for improved exterior security and safety.

Training will also be provided for staff on the new equipment.

Funding:	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total
Gen Fund	\$150,000	\$1,266,850	\$1,266,850				\$2,683,700
Total:	\$150,000	\$1,266,850	\$1,266,850	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,683,700

<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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

The court system received \$500,000 in FY04 and FY05 and \$750,000 for the major Anchorage project in FY07.

Project Description/Justification:

Recent 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 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.

The total project funding required was \$3,933,700. The Alaska Court System received \$500,000 in FY04 and in FY05; \$750,000 in FY07; and is requesting the remaining \$2,183,700 to improve security in superior courts throughout the state.

Appropriated funds have been used to replace screening equipment in Anchorage and Juneau, to purchase new screening equipment for Bethel, to shield customer service counters and to replace failing security systems for the Anchorage campus.

Securing a court facility should be comprehensive and should integrate security operations and technology with the architecture. The facilities that house courts vary in age from new to 30+ 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. Courthouse security generally centers around physical components such as duress alarms, card access systems, entry screening and surveillance of high risk areas. In addition to control systems, surveillance equipment, and other monitoring or alarm systems, several locations still lack sufficient court security officers about which the Department of Public Safety is aware and is working to address. The following sections describe the physical elements of an integrated security system for these courts.

A significant portion of the funding requested was spent to address critical security issues at the Anchorage court buildings. Funding requested in later years will be used to complete an integrated security system for other superior court sites such as Palmer, Kenai, Bethel and Ketchikan. The court will also install lighting and other improvements to address exterior building security and safety concerns. This request includes costs for engineering, bid document preparation, project management and construction 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. (Installation of metal detection equipment necessitates funding contractual services in the operating budget to operate the equipment.) Only Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Bethel, Palmer, and Kenai trial courts are equipped with both of these components.

Access control systems also control interior access for prisoner delivery and access to public and private spaces. Interior control is needed for Palmer, Ketchikan, Kenai, Bethel and for the Information Services Department located in the Snowden Administration Building in Anchorage. These control systems are estimated to cost \$340,000. The Anchorage access control system received a software upgrade with funds received in FY05.

Walk-through metal detection units are needed for ten multiple-courtroom locations. Each walk-through unit costs approximately \$6,500 plus an estimated \$6,000 for installation because most locations do not have the electrical connectivity required to operate the equipment. The Ketchikan court is the next courthouse scheduled to have security screening equipment installed, with an estimated cost of \$33,000 for equipment and installation. Funds of \$85,000 are needed to create a single-point-of-entry control in the Ketchikan courthouse. This includes access control devices and alarms for forced entry or exit. (In FY04, two replacement screening units costing approximately \$60,000 were purchased for Anchorage from security funds approved during that budget cycle. In FY07 a unit was purchased for Bethel.)

Portable detection units are an alternative for many court locations that do not require an 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 ten court locations, which include those constructed to accommodate superior court trials presided over by a traveling superior court judge.

Public counters in high use 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 the court staff. This is needed for eleven of the locations listed below. The cost will vary by location depending on the size and configuration of the counters, but is estimated to total \$356,000.

Surveillance cameras in courtrooms will provide improved 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 \$9,000 to install in each courtroom. New advances in technology allow for multiplexing of video signals, which allows up to six cameras to output to a single monitor and recording device. Providing these systems for multiple courtrooms in 12 superior court locations is estimated to cost \$222,300.

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Lighting improvement for the exterior of buildings and within parking garages is needed to ensure public and employee safety during hours of darkness. The estimated cost for this work is \$250,000. Installation and upgraded lighting in the Anchorage parking garage was completed with FY07 funding.

Palmer and Kenai courthouses need upgrades to the Judicial Services areas to ensure safe transport of prisoners and in-custody defendants and for the safety of staff and the public. The estimated cost is \$350,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Fairbanks, Bethel, Juneau, Palmer, and Kenai have recently completed security projects with capital and grant funds. These courts, however, still need additional access control, surveillance components, bullet-resistant shielding or other security elements and so, remain on this listing of courts requiring security work. Project management and engineering expense for the numerous security projects is estimated to be \$196,000. Following is a listing of superior courts and superior court trial sites that require security work:

Anchorage*
Dillingham
Juneau*
Kodiak
Palmer*
Wrangell
Barrow*
Fairbanks*
Kenai*
Kotzebue*
Petersburg
Valdez
Bethel*
Homer
Ketchikan*
Nome
Sitka
Unalaska

* Denotes projects fully or partially funded in FY04, 05 and 07.

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