

Court Facilities

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary issue facing the County's criminal justice system is the provision of adequate court facilities and support functions. The criminal justice system and its associated facilities have recently seen an increase in demand in Fairfax County. This is comparable to the general increase exhibited throughout the region, state and country as more stringent laws are legislated and enforced for varying degrees of law violations.

LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Meet all State standards for incarceration space, including the expansion of the adult and juvenile detention facilities.
- ✓ Construct new or expand existing facilities necessary to maintain the efficient and expedient processing and adjudication of cases, maintain a central location for the main court system for the County to be convenient to all County residents.
- ✓ Maintain adequate levels of service at existing or new Court and Central Court Service facilities, juvenile pre- and post-dispositional facilities, and for community intake and probation services.
- ✓ Provide supervised residential living/educational centers for selected non-violent male and female offenders referred to the Community Diversion Program from the District or Circuit Court, including the replacement of the Girls' Probation Home and expansion of the Boys' Probation Home, and the addition of a second shelter care facility.

Source: 2007 Edition of the Comprehensive Plan, as amended

CURRENT PROGRAM INITIATIVES

The court caseloads in the Fairfax County judicial system have been experiencing steady growth for the past 10 years and current projections are for this trend to continue. The Judicial Center Expansion project will collocate all three courts - Circuit, General District and Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts - in one building to facilitate the sharing of limited resources and to alleviate the confusion of two separate courthouses. The expansion project will include additional courtrooms for all three courts and functional support spaces for clerks' offices, the Commonwealth's Attorney, the Sheriff's court services and security offices and the Public Law Library, as well as open office areas for County staff not permanently assigned to the courthouse, such as probation officers who are required to work out of the courthouse on a limited basis. The Judicial Center Expansion is now complete. Funding for this project was provided by the 1998 Public Safety Bond Referendum, a state reimbursement from the adult detention center construction and the General Fund.

In addition to the Judicial Center Expansion project, the existing Jennings Building requires major renovations to make it a functional and operational component of the courthouse. The Jennings Building is over 20 years old, and has not had any significant building renovations during this time. The building is used by over 2,500 people daily and has experienced significant wear to the public spaces and building systems. Expanded and renovated facilities for the public lobby/circulation spaces, cafeteria, Commonwealth's Attorney, Police Liaison, Sheriff's roll call facilities and Circuit and General District Court

clerks' offices will be provided in the renovated Jennings Building. In addition, significant improvements to the building's life safety, mechanical and electrical systems will be made. Funding for this project was provided by the 2002 Public Safety Bond Referendum. This project does not include significant modifications required for the existing courtrooms. Renovations are anticipated to be completed over several years. There are 26 courtrooms within the Jennings building which are in need of renovations including improved lighting, ductwork realignment and technology upgrades to keep the rooms operational. The cost to complete this work is currently estimated at \$650,000 per courtroom. Some funding has been provided to begin courtroom renovations; however, a significant portion of courtroom renovations remain unfunded at this time.

In conjunction with the Judicial Center Expansion and Jennings Building Renovation projects, requirements for improved security will be implemented. Design and implementation of security enhancements to the courthouse and the surrounding site are in response to a heightened threat level in the Washington D.C. metro area and will follow federal guidelines for courthouse design criteria. In addition, the Judicial Center Parking Structure was completed in early 2003 and provides approximately 1,900 parking spaces and upgrades to an existing surface parking lot.

After the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court moves to the expanded courthouse, the Old Courthouse will continue to house Juvenile Court Services staff. This building was last renovated in 1989, and in order to have full and efficient use of the building, some renewal and renovations will be necessary.

Within the same complex, a 768-bed expansion to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) was completed in July 2000. The expanded ADC facility enables an average of 1,376 inmates to be housed daily, which is currently the approximate daily number. Renovation of the existing ADC facility was completed in summer 2002, and included upgraded and expanded facilities for prisoner intake/processing, Magistrate's offices, public and professional visiting, inmate property and record storage, administrative support areas and public lobby areas.



Artist rendering of Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Expansion

Security screens were installed in the forensic housing areas in 2003 for inmate safety, and some of the computer hardware for the security system in the ADC was upgraded in 2004.

It is projected that by the year 2013, the inmate population will exceed the design capacity of the ADC by 15 percent, thus obligating the County to build alternate facilities at a location other than that of the Public Safety Complex. In order to complete a preliminary study in time to meet obligated deadlines, funding will be requested for the study in FY 2011.

Currently the ADC includes a Pre-Release Center (PRC) to house the Community Labor Force (CLF), Work Release, and other low risk offender populations. The CLF is a low-risk offender labor force managed by the Sheriff's Office that provides quick and efficient removal of trash, debris and graffiti throughout the County, maintains over 200 stand alone bus stops and performs mowing and landscape maintenance on over 100 acres of County-owned properties including the Government Center and the Public Safety Complex. The CLF also provides mowing at four Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRDs). This work saves the County contracting costs wherever it is done. Limited available space in the Public Safety Complex prevents the CLF from growing and expanding beyond its present level of approximately 40 - 50 inmates. Long term plans include establishing a self-contained, secure Inmate Work Training Center on property owned in the Chantilly area. In addition to the CLF, most PRC low risk inmates would be transferred to the Chantilly site with the CLF. The Chantilly property would need to house perhaps 350-400 inmates supervised by Deputy Sheriffs, provide storage for all CLF vehicles and equipment, and serve as a staging area for daily operations. The vacated Pre-Release Center (PRC) could then be renovated to provide a full range of secure housing opportunities for about 200 female inmates, separate from the male inmate population.

In October 2006, a consultant completed a security assessment of the ADC. The study indicated that both the electronic and mechanical security systems (locks, intercoms, CCTV and card readers) require upgrading to adequately support the current and prior expansions. The existing system fragmentation makes the systems more reactive than proactive and requires more staff time to manage security. In FY 2008, funding was authorized to begin the process of integrating, upgrading and completing the first portion of the four highest priority security needs. The balance of the first priority projects will be completed with future funding, as available.

A study was completed in FY 2008 recommending the installation of a grinder in the sewer main of the Adult Detention Center. Objects that have been flushed in the sewer lines routinely cause the sewer to backup and overflow. The grinder will shred anything that goes into the line, preventing backups. It also represents a substantial savings in maintenance fees for unclogging the system. This recommendation remains unfunded at this time.

As in the case of adult offenders, the need for juvenile detention and residential treatment space continues to grow. As a result of various past and future demographic and social factors, as well as recent state legislation, it is projected that additional detention space and shelter and treatment facilities will be needed for juveniles at different levels of incarceration. These factors have been used as a guide to help develop the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court juvenile facilities capital program. A 66-bed expansion to the Juvenile Detention Center was completed in 1998. Additional projects required to address juvenile offenders include a new, replacement facility for the current, outdated Girls' Probation House and a second shelter care facility.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation** (Providence District): \$125,736,000 for the design and construction of an approximately 316,000 square foot addition to the Jennings Judicial Center, including courtrooms, chambers, office space, necessary support spaces and site improvements. This project also includes the renovation of the existing 230,000 square foot courthouse and for improved security to the overall courthouse and surrounding site. The renovation will include significant renovations to life safety, mechanical and electrical building systems to create a functional and operational courthouse. This project is supported by the 1998 and 2002 Public Safety Referenda, a state reimbursement from the ADC construction and the General Fund.
2. **Jennings Judicial Center - Furniture and Equipment** (Providence District): \$12,600,000 for necessary Information Technology equipment and building support for the Judicial Center Expansion and Renovation project. Funding provides for the purchase of systems furniture and loose furniture and courtroom furnishings, as well as furniture for the jury assembly room, public waiting areas, the law library, the children's room, staff work areas and the cafeteria. All of these are necessary to make the Judicial Center Expansion fully functional.
3. **Girls' Probation House** (Springfield District): \$5,571,562 for design and construction of a new, approximately 11,500 square foot facility at the site of the existing facility. The program will continue to provide residential services for up to 12 girls as ordered by the Juvenile Court. The new facility is required to provide a replacement for an extremely outdated facility that is nearly fifty years old and was originally constructed as a motel. Funding is supported by the 2004 Human Services/ Juvenile Facilities Bond Referendum. This project was completed in fall 2008.

4. **Less Secure Shelter II** (Providence District): \$6,655,027 for design and construction of a new, approximately 11,500 square foot facility at the site of the existing Juvenile Detention Center and the existing Less Secure facility. The new facility will provide 12 new beds to help alleviate overcrowding at the existing facility resulting from court-ordered assignments. The new facility will also allow for segregation of male and female juveniles who are ordered into the program. Funding is supported by the 2004 Human Services/ Juvenile Facilities bond referendum. Construction began in fall 2008.
5. **Jennings Courtroom Renovations** (Providence District): This is an on-going project to address needed renovations in the existing 26 courtrooms within Jennings building which are not being renovated or moved as part of the Judicial Center Expansion Project. These courtrooms require improved lighting, ductwork realignment and technology upgrades to keep these existing court rooms operational. The cost to complete this work is currently estimated at \$650,000 per court room. This project is supported by the General Fund, as available.
6. **Adult Detention Center Security Enhancements** (Providence District): This is an on-going project to address needed security improvements in the Adult Detention Center (ADC) that were identified by an independent study of security deficiencies. The improvements will complete, integrate and upgrade mechanical and electronic security systems to enable Deputies to be more proactive to avoid security issues. There are four priority work areas. An amount of \$250,000 will complete the remaining portion of the first priority of work. Each of the remaining three priorities is estimated to cost \$1,000,000 each. As available, funding is planned at approximately \$300,000 annually.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
COURT FACILITIES
(\$000's)**

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	Total FY2010-FY2014	Total FY2015-FY2019	Total Project Estimate
1. Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation / 009209	B, G, X	121,736	4,000					4,000		125,736
2. Jennings Judicial Center - Furniture and Equipment / 009218	G	11,000	800	800				1,600		12,600
3. Girls' Probation House / 04A001	B	5,471	100					100		5,571
4. Less Secure Shelter II / 04A005	B	2,050	3,700	905				4,605		6,655
5. Jenning Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations / 009223	G	2,300						0		2,300
6. Adult Detention Center Security	B, U	250			300	300	400	1,000		1,250
TOTAL		\$142,807	\$8,600	\$1,705	\$300	\$300	\$400	\$11,305	\$0	\$154,112

Key: Stage of Development	
	Feasibility Study or Design
	Land Acquisition
	Construction

Notes:
Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts.

Key: Source of Funds	
B	Bonds
G	General Fund
S	State
F	Federal
X	Other
U	Undetermined

Court Facilities Project Locations



Detail Map



- 1 Judicial Center Expansion & Renovation
- 3 Girls Probation House
- 4 Less Secure Shelter II
- 5 Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations
- 6 Adult Detention Center Security

Note: Map numbers correspond to project descriptions in the text and cost summary tables. Only CIP projects with selected, fixed sites are shown on the map.