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.
- ✓ Plan and construct additional 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, pre- and post-dispositional juvenile 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 expansion 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, Area III, and the Policy Plan Element, Public Facilities and Human Services Sections, 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 is now complete and resulted in the collocation of 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 included 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. 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, 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.

In addition to the Judicial Center Expansion project, the existing Jennings Building is over 20 years old, and a major renovation was complete in 2009. 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 were provided in the renovated Jennings Building. In addition, significant improvements to the building's life safety, mechanical and electrical systems were made. Funding for this project was provided by the 2002 Public Safety Bond Referendum. This project did not include significant modifications required for the existing courtrooms. Renovations to the courtrooms 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. 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 and accessibility have been implemented. 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 follow federal guidelines for courthouse design criteria. After the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court moved to the expanded courthouse, the Old Courthouse continues 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.

Artist rendering of Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Expansion

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. 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 required.

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 400 stand alone bus stops and shelters, and performs mowing and landscape maintenance on over 300 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 for equipment and housing at 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 low risk inmates would be transferred to the Chantilly site with the CLF. The Chantilly property would need to house approximately 500-600 inmates (about the growth rate of the inmate population over 12 years) 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 is reaching the age where some locks must be operated manually, making the management of the system fragmented, more reactive than proactive, and staff intensive. In FY 2008, funding was authorized to begin the process of integrating, upgrading and completing a small portion of the most urgent security needs. A comprehensive implementation plan will be completed next with future funding as available.

In addition, a study was completed in FY 2008 evaluating 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 both inside and outside the facility. The grinder will shred anything that goes into the line, preventing backups. It would also represent 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): $127,236,000 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): $11,800,150 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. **Less Secure Shelter II** (Providence District): $6,658,162 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.

4. **Jennings Courtroom Renovations** (Providence District): $2,300,000 to begin 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. This project is supported by the General Fund, as available.

5. **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 Sheriff Deputies to be more proactive and avoid security issues. The next increment of funding will provide for a comprehensive implementation plan designed to avoid the current problems in future years. 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 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total FY2011-FY2015	Total FY2016-FY2020	Total Project Estimate
1 Jennings Judicial Center - Expansion and Renovation / 009209	B, G, X	***127,236***						0		127,236
2 Jennings Judicial Center - Furniture and Equipment / 009218	G	***11,800***						0		11,800
3 Less Secure Shelter II / 04A005	B	***5,766***	***892***					892		6,658
4 Jenning Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations / 009223	G	***2,000***	***300***					300		2,300
5 Adult Detention Center Security	B, U	***250***			300	300	400	1,000		1,250
TOTAL		***$147,052***	$1,192	$0	$300	$300	$400	$2,192	$0	$149,244

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

1 Judicial Center Expansion & Renovation
3 Less Secure Shelter II
4 Judicial Center Courtroom Renovation
5 Adult Detension 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.