Court Facilities

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary issue facing the County's criminal justice system is the provision of adequate court facilities and updating aging jail security systems.

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 future 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, a major renovation to the existing Jennings Building was complete in 2009. The building is used by over 2,500 people daily and experiences 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 renovation project. 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. Funding to complete 4 courtrooms has been provided; however, a significant portion of courtroom renovations remain unfunded at this time.

Artist rendering of Fairfax County Jennings Judicial Center Expansion

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 limited renewal efforts are underway.

Within the same complex, a 768-bed expansion to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) was completed in July 2000. In October 2006, a consultant completed a security assessment of the ADC and concluded that both the electronic and mechanical security systems should be upgraded. A comprehensive implementation plan will be completed next with future funding provided as it becomes available. When the project is complete, all of the jail facilities will have a complete, updated, and integrated mechanical and electronic security system that will ensure that deputies can be proactive in avoiding security breeches.

It is projected that by the year 2014, 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 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 would shred anything that goes into the line, preventing backups. It would also represent a substantial savings in maintenance costs for unclogging the system. The sewer grinder 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. Future projects may include the expansion of the Boys' Probation Home, and the addition of a second shelter care facility.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Jennings Courtroom Renovations** (Providence District): $3,222,595 to renovate four of the 26 existing courtrooms within Jennings Building which were not 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 currently supported by the General Fund, as available.

2. **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. Proposed improvements will complete, integrate and upgrade mechanical and electronic security systems to enable Sheriff Deputies to be more proactive and avoid security issues. Future funding will provide for a comprehensive implementation plan designed to avoid the current concerns.

PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
COURT FACILITIES
($000's)

Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Total FY2012-FY2016	Total FY2017-FY2021	Total Project Estimate
1 Jenning Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations / 009223	G, X	***2,780***	***443***					443		3,223
2 Adult Detention Center Security	B, U	***250***			5,000	2,500		7,500		7,750
TOTAL		***$3,030***	$443	$0	$5,000	$2,500	$0	$7,943	$0	$10,973

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 Courtroom Renovation
2 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.