Court Facilities

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The current focus of the County's criminal justice system is to provide adequate court facilities and update 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 adult 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.

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 experienced steady growth for the past 10 years and current projections are for this trend to continue. The Judicial Center underwent a major expansion and renovation which is now complete. This project 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 resources and to alleviate the confusion of two separate courthouses. The project also 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.

The building is used by over 2,500 people daily and experiences significant wear to the public spaces and building systems. There are 26 courtrooms within the original portion of the Courthouse which are in need of renovations including improved lighting, ductwork realignment and technology upgrades to keep the rooms operational. Funding for the first four courtrooms has been provided and the modifications have been completed. An additional $20 million for the remaining 22 courtrooms was approved as part of the fall 2012 bond referendum.

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. Waterproofing of the foundation walls, exterior building envelope, and roofing systems to protect the building integrity is nearing completion. In addition, 3,200 square feet of interior space was recently renovated to accommodate the Historical Records Center previously located in the Judicial Center. A new Public Safety Headquarters (PSHQ) to replace the current Massey Building is currently in design with construction scheduled to start in 2014 and conclude in 2016. Once complete, the Massey Building will be demolished. A Courts Complex Master Plan is underway to evaluate the overall Complex and determine how to accommodate the functions currently housed in the Massey Building that will not move to the new Headquarters building. This study will also evaluate how to best utilize vacated space in the Burkeholder Building, and develop a comprehensive plan for the various facilities and functions in the Complex.

The Adult Detention Center (ADC) with a rated capacity of 1,260 resides within the same complex. In October 2006, a consultant completed a security assessment of the entire 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 2019, the inmate population could 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.

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 maintenance of many rain gardens throughout the County. 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 grinders 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, creating security, health, and environmental issues. The grinder will shred anything that goes into the line, preventing backups. It will also represent a substantial savings in maintenance costs for unclogging the system. This project is underway.

As in the case of adult offenders, the need for juvenile 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 community based treatment facilities will be needed for juveniles. 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. The Boys Probation House was renovated in 1995 and expanded to a 22 bed facility for juvenile offenders. These juveniles, typically 16-17 years old, live at the facility for 12 -14 months based on court orders. The facility is currently 9,500 square feet as compared to the Less Secure and Girls Probation House facilities which are approximately 11,500 square feet and serve 12 offenders. In addition to the tight quarters for these teenage boys, the facility currently has undersized recreational areas, limited administrative space and counseling space that is not conducive to privacy. This facility has the largest demand for use with a typical waiting list of 4 months. All beds are full and if there is not space for these court ordered offenders they must wear electronic monitoring devices or wait in the detention center until a bed opens up. A study is currently underway to identify options for expansion.

CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1. **Jennings Courtroom Renovations** (Providence District): $23,222,595 to renovate 26 of the existing courtrooms within Jennings Building which were not renovated 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. Four of the 26 courtrooms were fully funded by the General Fund and the work is complete. The remaining 22 courtrooms are funded by $20 million in General Obligation bonds approved as part of the fall 2012 Public Safety Bond Referendum.

2. **Adult Detention Center Security Enhancements** (Providence District): $300,000 to complete an implementation study 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, avoid security issues, and design more efficient security operations. Future funding will be required.

3. **Adult Detention Center Sewer Improvements** (Providence District): $2,500,000 for the installation of 3 grinders 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, creating security, health, and environmental issues. The grinder will shred anything that goes into the line, preventing backups. This project, when complete, will also represent a substantial savings in maintenance costs for unclogging the system.

4. **Boys Probation House Expansion Study** (Braddock District): $75,000 to conduct a feasibility study to determine options for expanding the Boys Probation House. The Boys Probation House was renovated in 1995 and expanded to a 22 bed facility for juvenile offenders. The facility is currently 9,500 square feet as compared to the Less Secure and Girls Probation House facilities which are approximately 11,500 square feet and serve 12 offenders. In addition to the tight quarters for these teenage boys, the facility currently has undersized recreational areas, limited administrative space and counseling space that is not conducive to privacy. The study would provide options for expansion at the current site. Future funding will be required.

5. **Jennings Courthouse Data Center Study** (Providence District): $350,000 to conduct a study on the current technology center space in the Courthouse. The basement of the new portion of the courthouse is being used as a data center, housing computer equipment, including 35 servers, which is necessary to support all courthouse technology including sensitive court records, land records, and marriage licenses. As automation has expanded, requirements have changed and occupants have added equipment, causing the space to become overloaded. Staff is experiencing equipment outages up to 4 times a year and these outages are beginning to decrease the equipment lifecycle. There are currently infrastructure deficiencies including lack of power back-up and redundancies, HVAC reliability and availability, and security. Funding has been approved to proceed with a comprehensive study to determine both short terms fixes and long term solutions. These solutions could include removing walls to reduce heat, increasing the amount of equipment racks for better air flow, establishing a dedicated power source and generator, establishing dedicated cooling, installing an Uninterrupted Power Source (UPS) and analyzing the current use of space. Depending on the costs of the study, some funding may also be available to perform some short term quick fixes. Future funding will be required.

PROJECT COST SUMMARIES
COURT FACILITIES
($000's)

	Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	Total FY2014-FY2018	Total FY2019-FY2023	Total Project Estimate
1	Jennings Judicial Center Courtroom Renovations / CF-000002	G, X	***3,223***	***2,000***	***2,700***	***2,700***	***2,700***	***2,700***	12,800	7,200	23,223
2	Adult Detention Center Security Upgrades / 2G91-001-000	B, U	***300***			5,000	5,000		10,000		10,300
3	Adult Detention Center Sewer Improvements / AD-000001	G	***1,000***	***1,500***					1,500		2,500
4	Boys Probation House Expansion Study / 2G25-078-000	G	***75***						0		75
5	Jennings Courthouse Data Center Study / 2G08-010-000	G	***350***						0		350
	TOTAL		***$4,948***	$3,500	$2,700	$7,700	$7,700	$2,700	$24,300	$7,200	$36,448

Notes: Numbers in bold italics represent funded amounts. A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

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

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 Renovations

2 Adult Detention Center Security

3 Adult Detention Center Sewer Improvements

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.