

# 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.

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. However, an amount of \$4.0 million has been redirected to the Jennings Courthouse Data Center to support critical and immediate requirements at the Courthouse. Additional funding to complete all courtroom renovations will be required in the future.

A new Public Safety Headquarters (PSHQ) to replace the current Massey Building is currently in construction and is scheduled to be complete in 2017. Once the new Headquarters is 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 1,371 residents is 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 need to be upgraded. Disruptions caused by the current security system are a growing concern. A comprehensive implementation plan is underway with future construction funding required. When the project is complete, all of the jail facilities will have a complete, secure, reliable, updated, and integrated mechanical and electronic security system that will ensure that deputies can be proactive in avoiding security breaches.

It is projected that by the year 2023, based on the current average inmate population growth rate, the inmate population could exceed the design capacity of the ADC by 15 percent, thus obligating the County to begin planning for alternate facilities.

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.

## **CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

1. **Courtroom Renovations Bond Funded** (Providence District): \$16,000,000 to renovate most 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 in the amount of \$3,530,000 and the work is complete. The remaining 22 courtrooms were approved for funding in the amount of \$20 million as part of the fall 2012 Public Safety Bond Referendum. However, an amount of \$4.0 million has been redirected to the Jennings Courthouse Data Center to support critical and immediate requirements at the Courthouse. Additional funding to complete all courtroom renovations will be required in the future.
2. **Courthouse Data Center Critical Upgrades** (Providence District): \$4,000,000 to support critical and immediate improvements to the current technology center space in the Courthouse. The basement of the new portion of the courthouse is 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. A comprehensive study to determine both short term fixes and long term solutions has been completed and an amount of \$4.0 million has been redirected from courtroom renovation projects to complete the data center improvements.
3. **Adult Detention Center Security Enhancements** (Providence District): Funding has been provided 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. Funding to implement the project is estimated to be approximately \$10 million.

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

	Project Title/ Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	Total FY2016-FY2020	Total FY2021-FY2025	Total Project Estimate
1	Courtroom Renovations Bond Funded / CF-000003	B	<b>2,248</b>	<b>4,175</b>	<b>2,700</b>	<b>3,435</b>	<b>2,550</b>	<b>892</b>	13,752		16,000
2	Courthouse Data Center Critical Upgrades / CF-000004	B	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>					3,000		4,000
3	Adult Detention Center Security Enhancements / 2G91-001-000	U	<b>510</b>		5,000	5,000			10,000		10,510
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$3,758</b>	\$7,175	\$7,700	\$8,435	\$2,550	\$892	\$26,752	\$0	\$30,510

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 Courthouse Data Center Critical Upgrades
- 3 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.