



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
JUDICIAL BRANCH

CHAMBERS OF
PATRICK L. CARROLL III
CHIEF COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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HARTFORD, CT 06106

**Testimony of Judge Patrick L. Carroll III
Chief Court Administrator for the Judicial Branch
Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee
General Bonding Subcommittee Agency Presentation
March 14, 2019**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Miller, Senator Witkos, Representative Floren and members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee General Bonding Subcommittee. My name is Patrick L. Carroll, III, and I am the Chief Court Administrator for the Judicial Branch. I am honored to come before you today as I have for the past six years to provide an overview of the Judicial Branch's capital projects.

Before I do so, I must note that there is an error in Governor Lamont's proposed capital fund budget. For the Judicial Branch's FY 2021 request for *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvements and Code Compliance to Courthouses Statewide*, the Judicial Branch requested \$5 million. The Governor's proposed capital fund budget incorrectly shows that the Judicial Branch requested \$2 million; not the \$5 million request that the Judicial Branch submitted. The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) has confirmed that it is an error, and that the Judicial Branch's request was in fact \$5 million and not the \$2 million shown in the Governor's proposed capital fund budget.

I request that you consider our ADA project as I requested and reported to OPM - \$5 million for FY 2021.

Judicial Branch Locations

The Judicial Branch's building inventory includes a mix of older and newer buildings, in various levels of condition, construction and adaptability. The Judicial Branch operates 88 owned and leased locations (39 owned/49 leased) in 25 cities and towns. Our more than 40 courthouses range in age from the historic New London courthouse built in 1784 to our newest location in Torrington that was completed in 2017. The

largest courthouse is in Stamford, commanding 251,000 square feet, and our smallest is Rockville Juvenile Court, a modest 9,072 square feet.

Judicial Branch Capital Funding Priorities

The Judicial Branch's biennium capital budget request is \$19,250,000 for FY 2020 and \$19,000,000 (as requested) for FY 2021. These funds will allow the Judicial Branch to make critical improvements in the following areas:

1. Infrastructure repairs to courthouses statewide;
2. Security improvements;
3. ADA improvements and code compliance to courthouses statewide;
4. Technology strategic plan improvements;
5. Stamford Courthouse HVAC upgrades.

The availability of bond funds allows us to keep the court system up and running in a safe and accessible manner. Two recent examples will illustrate the importance of bond funding to our daily operations:

- The Judicial Branch owns and operates 231 Capitol Avenue. This building was constructed in 1909 and houses not only the Connecticut Supreme Court, but also the Connecticut State Library and Museum. This past weekend, during a scheduled testing of the antiquated fire alarm system, the fire panel failed. Interim measures including a fire watch protocol are now in place and will remain so until the panel is replaced. The replacement cost is yet to be determined and is expected to exceed half a million dollars, at minimum.
- Construction is underway for Phase 1 of the ADA Juror Accessibility Project, which will upgrade existing lavatories in six courthouses' jury assembly areas to meet ADA code. This work is expected to be completed by the fall. The next phase of the project, dependent on available bonding funding, is jury assembly lavatory upgrades in the remaining 12 courthouses and modification or replacement of courtroom jury boxes.

The Judicial Branch relies on bond funds to provide and maintain safe and secure buildings to serve judges, staff, attorneys, litigants and the public. We appreciate the support of the Legislature in meeting Judicial Branch capital funding needs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions that you may have and have asked Executive Director for Administrative Services, Elizabeth Graham, and Director of Facilities, Patrick O'Brien, to assist me in responding to your inquiries.

JUDICIAL

March 2019

Priority	Program	Brief Description of Program	Unallocated Balance after Dec 11, 2018 SBC meeting (\$)	Judicial Request FY 20	Governor's recommendation FY 20 (\$)	Judicial Request FY 21	Governor's recommendation FY 21 (\$)
1	Alterations, renovations and improvements to buildings and grounds at state-owned and maintained facilities.	Infrastructure projects to be funded include major projects that are currently in the design phase: Bridgeport GA window replacement, Fairfield JD roof replacement and New Britain elevator modernizations. Upcoming projects include: Supreme Court/State Library fire alarm replacement; Danielson & New Britain Facade Phase II, Hartford JD Roof Replacement (Phase II), Stamford Garage (Phase II), Hartford JD Plaster Repairs, Middletown Elevator Modernization. There is an upcoming roofing assessment of the six most problematic roofs, the results of the study will determine the priority in which the roofs are replaced. The remaining funds will be used towards repairs and improvements identified on the Branch's master project list which include, but are not limited to HVAC, plumbing, EMS, parking lot drainage and resurfacing, repointing, elevator modernization and fire detection/safety equipment replacement.	3,980,000	11,000,000	11,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
2	Security improvements at various state-owned and maintained facilities.	Funds will enable the Branch to prioritize and implement recommendations from a recent security study as well as carrying out planned security improvements which may include new installation or upgrading/replacing outdated weapon detection systems, CCTV equipment and digital video storage systems. The funds will be used to install additional card access equipment in facilities where usage patterns have changed, cellblock improvements including improved circulation systems, replacement or upgrades to electronic locking panels; new duress and building monitoring alarms systems and miscellaneous replacement of parking gates and overhead doors.	2,090,200	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
3	Alterations and improvements in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act	The authorized funds will enable the Branch to eliminate accessibility issues faced by persons with disabilities, including staff and residents called to jury duty in courthouses statewide. <i>*The Branch requested \$5m FY 21, the submission to the Governor erroneously indicated a \$2m request.</i> The first phase of accessible restrooms in jury assembly areas of Bridgeport, Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, New London and Waterbury is in the construction stage. NH-DOJ Investigation - awaiting DOJ approval of proposed action plan, then A/E will be engaged to develop an correction plan. Design is underway at the Fairfield JD Courthouse to update one chambers to fully ADA compliant, including a ramp access from the chambers to the judge's bench. Phase II of the juror accessibility project, upgrades to toilet rooms in jury assembly areas of the remaining twelve courthouses and addressing courtroom jury boxes.	0	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000 Original Request: 5,000,000	2,000,000 5,000,000

Bond Authorizations and Available Balance FY18

Priority	Program	Brief Description of Program	Unallocated Balance	Judicial Request	Governor's recommendation	Judicial Request	Governor's recommendation
			after Dec 11, 2018 SBC meeting (\$)	FY 20	FY 20 (\$)	FY 21	FY 21 (\$)
4	Implement Technology Strategic Plan Project	The technology strategic plan includes the upgrade of aging network and service equipment, intrusion protection systems, expansion of systems and services to various courts and probation offices and replacement of obsolete telephone systems. There is a pending \$2.5m request for the March 2019 Bond Agenda - modern hardware and software that prevent malware and similar breaches of critical legacy systems. Modernization of systems CRMVS, CIB, JASMIN which requires hardware and software upgrades before manufacturer support is terminated.	12,350,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
5	Mechanical system improvements at the superior courthouse in Stamford	NEW REQUEST: Replace the obsolete Chillers in Stamford with modern, energy efficient equipment Replace four chillers in kind and reuse exiting infrastructure and structural deck support. The court complex operates all court functions of the Stamford Judicial system (Criminal, Civil, Juvenile Courts as well as Adult Probation, Juvenile Probation and Support Enforcement reporting offices.	New Request	2,250,000	2,250,000	0	0
Existing Authorizations - Unallocated Balances - NO additional funds requested							
	121 Elm Street Courthouse - Alterations, renovations and restoration of the courthouse at 121 Elm Street, New Haven.	121 Elm St., New Haven: Second Phase will complete the exterior building facade & envelope repairs, includes masonry, windows roofs & skylight. Estimated cost of this phase of the project is \$19m. Construction documents are completed. Funding for the project will be comprised from multiple authorizations.	14,060,895	0	0	0	0
	Repairs to existing Judicial Branch Facilities in New Haven, Not exceeding \$9,500,000	121 Elm St., New Haven: Second Phase will complete the exterior building facade & envelope repairs, includes masonry, windows roofs & skylight. Estimated cost of this phase of the project is \$19m. Construction documents are completed. Funding for the project will be comprised from multiple authorizations.	5,000,000	0	0	0	0
	Mechanical upgrades and code-required improvements at the superior courthouse in New Haven.	The HVAC distribution system is failing in the current obsolete system. One courtroom is being used as a test case for a more reliable and energy efficient HVAC resolution. If the courtroom holds temperatures through the next year during all seasons, additional areas will be modified using this technology. The design and construction is more cost effective and result in a less disruptive installation.	5,000,000	0	0	0	0
	Development of a courthouse facility in Torrington	Construction of the Litchfield Judicial District Courthouse in Torrington is complete.	500,000	0	0	0	0
Grand Total			42,481,095	19,250,000	19,250,000	19,000,000	19,000,000