

SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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TO: Representative Alice Emmons, Chair
House Corrections and Institutions Committee

FROM: Gregg Mousley, Chief, Finance and Administration

DATE: January 28, 2026

RE: Judiciary Capital Budget Adjustment Act Testimony

The Judiciary appreciates the opportunity to testify to the House Corrections and Institutions Committee regarding the Judiciary's Capital Budget Adjustment Act request for the FY26-FY27 biennium. The Judiciary operates in 23 courthouses across Vermont. Twelve of those courthouses are county-owned and the remaining eleven courthouses are state-owned and managed by Buildings and General Services (BGS).

BGS has a number of projects involving state courthouses for which they have the best information on the project status and funding. The projects include: the parking garage renovation at the Costello Criminal and Family Courthouse at 32 Cherry Street in Burlington; the Windsor Criminal and Family Courthouse renovation in White River Junction; the Orleans Criminal and Family Courthouse replacement in Newport, and pre-planning for the Washington Criminal and Family Courthouse replacement/renovation in Barre.

There are three projects that involve county courthouses, with one that has an adjustment request in the Capital Budget Adjustment Act. The Essex County Courthouse Connector Project has experienced an unforeseen expense that led to a \$500,000 adjustment request to complete the project.

The Essex project includes installation of a new sprinkler system as a permit requirement. The plan was to connect the sprinkler system to the Town of Guildhall water system. When pressure tests were performed as part of the design process, we learned that the Guildhall water system would not support the sprinkler system. An alternate water source in the form of an underground water tank and pump to support the sprinkler system was recommended.

We are in the design phase for the alternate system. The request of \$500,000 is the current best estimate of the adjusted cost. We anticipate a firm estimate shortly and are happy to provide the firm estimate as soon as it is in hand.

Please let us know if any further details would be helpful. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

cc: Representative James Gregoire, Vice Chair
 Representative Troy Headrick, Ranking Member
 Representative Conor Casey
 Representative Gina Galfetti
 Representative William Greer
 Representative Joseph Luneau
 Representative Brian Minier
 Representative Mary Morrissey
 Representative Kevin Winter
 Tate Mullin, Committee Assistant