

**SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

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TO: Senator Wendy Harrison, Chair
Senator Robert Plunkett, Vice Chair
Senator Russ Ingalls
Senator Joseph Major
Senator John Benson, Clerk

FROM: Teri Corsones, State Court Administrator
Gregg Mousley, Chief, Finance and Administration

DATE: February 5, 2026

RE: Judiciary Capital Budget Adjustment Act Testimony

The Judiciary appreciates the opportunity to testify before the Senate 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 most current information on 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.

When testimony about the Capital Budget Adjustment request was presented to the House Corrections and Institutions Committee last week, Chair Emmons suggested that a Letter of Intent might be a helpful way to ensure continuity of the work force lined up to begin work on the project last Fall. We agree and respectfully request that a Letter of Intent be considered in conjunction with the adjustment request.

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