



Supreme Court of Maryland

Robert C. Murphy Courts of Appeal Building
361 Rowe Boulevard
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

(410) 260-3725

MARYLAND JUDICIARY

FISCAL YEAR 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET

RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES ANALYSIS

DE0211

SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATOR CRAIG J. ZUCKER
FEBRUARY 27, 2024

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CAPITAL BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE
DELEGATE MARK S. CHANG
MARCH 4, 2024

Summary of Recommended Actions

1. **Washington County District Court Renovation and Expansion:** The Judiciary should comment on when a new architect is expected to be hired and if the current projected completion date of April 2026 is still possible, given the complications in the design process.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Department of General Services has provided the Judiciary with preliminary information and timelines which do not meet the Judiciary's needs. The Judiciary is attempting to determine if these timeframes can be shortened and expedited in some manner.

2. **Potential Future Projects:** The Judiciary should comment on the anticipated timeline for adding the projects in Baltimore, Frederick, and Garrett counties to the CIP and if any of these facilities has a more urgent need than the other noted potential sites. The Judiciary should also comment on the anticipated timeline for the completion of the masterplan.

JUDICIARY RESPONSE:

The Judiciary anticipates submitting a Part I Program for Baltimore County, Essex, in 2025. The Court has had conversations with DGS and the Maryland State Police and is interested in the current MSP Essex Barracks property. MSP anticipate relocating from this property in the 2028 timeframe so the Court would work toward having design funds available in 2028 and 2029, with construction to begin in 2031.

In Frederick County, the Court has worked with the current landlord (Frederick County Government) to stay in the existing building while pursuing several options and alternative analyses. The Court, DGS Real Estate, Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO), and Frederick County are all reviewing possible alternatives involving a potential public private partnership (P3) or alternate lease options in the future. It is premature to speculate on a timeline at this point.

In Garrett County, the Court has requested DGS Real Estate to solicit for possible alternative sites for a private lease opportunity so the court could add much needed support space, program space and proper security features. DGS Real Estate is in the preliminary planning stage as they survey the geographic area prior to site solicitation. There is not a timeline at this point and the current lease was renewed and expires in 2027.

The Court is working with DGS on the master plan effort as they recently guided the Department of Health's efforts in this regard. The solicitation will be posted on eMMA on February 28, 2024, with anticipated submission of proposals due in late April 2024 and an award as soon thereafter as practical. It is anticipated that this will be a full two-year effort.