

John Galusha, Chairman
Arica Andreatta, Commissioner
Karl Sporleder, Commissioner



HUERFANO COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANT APPROVAL MEMORANDUM

Date: December 12, 2023
To: Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners
From: Carl Young, County Administrator
Re: Underfunded Courthouse Grant Award Acceptance

Summary: This is a request to accept the award of \$55,969 from the Underfunded Courthouse Program for a project to repair and enhance physical security at the Huerfano County Judicial Center. The total project cost is \$114,438.

Requested Motion/Action:

Motion to approve the application to the Underfunded Courthouse program in the amount of \$55,969 with a total project cost of \$114,438 and to authorize the Chair to sign the grant paperwork.

Grant Program: The responsibility for providing adequate courtrooms and other court facilities lies with the individual county governments. However, courthouses across Colorado are impacted by expanding caseloads, the allocation of new judges to the district, or the aging of existing courtroom facilities. These circumstances cause operational and safety impacts to the performance of judicial activities. In some areas, the necessary maintenance and improvements to the courthouse have been delayed or are hindered by the financial limitations of the county. The Judicial Branch worked with the General Assembly to create the Commission to assist these counties and ensure that the courthouses meet current safety standards.

The statute mandates that moneys from the Fund be made available to Counties through grants for:

1. Commissioning master planning services
2. Matching funds or leveraging grant funding opportunities for construction or remodeling projects
3. Addressing emergency needs due to the imminent closure of a court facility

Our Project:

Huerfano County and the 3rd Judicial District have worked together to identify security issues in the Huerfano County Judicial Center. Some of these project stem from errors in design or construction, while others were deemed necessary after a 2022 active shooter drill at the Judicial Center. After a long search for a qualified contractor the County has worked with Convergent to re-assess the facility and come up with a plan to address the security concerns at the facility. In accordance with County policy and grant rules the County's use of Convergent is through the Omnia Partners Purchasing Cooperative and was competitively procured for the Cooperative's use.

Alignment with County Objectives:

This project aligns with County goals around infrastructure and resiliency.

Financial Considerations:

The total cost of the project is \$114,438 and we received \$55,969 from underfunded. The original match amount of \$71,337 is included as capital outlay for the judicial center in the preliminary budget.

Background: In late 2021 the County received a letter from then-Chief Judge Leslie Gerbracht listing a number of security concerns in the Judicial Center. We responded by fixing as many of those concerns as the County could given staff knowledge and capacity. The County began looking for a contractor to complete the remaining scope and that search took the better part of a year and a half. We have since contracted with Convergent and are actively working with them to fix as many projects as possible with County funds and a previously awarded Underfunded Grant.

Signature of the Chair

Approved

Denied