



**W. Kendall Wynne, Jr.**

**Judge Superior Courts  
Alcovy Judicial Circuit**

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NEWTON AND WALTON  
COUNTY

April 14, 2023

ARPA Grants Committee  
c/o Administrative Office of the Courts  
244 Washington Street, Suite 300  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5900  
[ARPA@georgiacourts.gov](mailto:ARPA@georgiacourts.gov)

RE: Alcovy Judicial Circuit Audio-Visual Modernization

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit, we offer the following in support of our Audio-Visual Modernization funding request.

*Background*

The Alcovy Judicial Circuit is a two-county circuit made up of Newton and Walton Counties. The Newton County courthouse was built in 1999 with an office and courtroom expansion completed in 2018. The Walton County courthouse was built in 2004 with a courtroom expansion completed in 2022. Currently, Newton County has 4 courtrooms available for use by the Superior Court and Walton County has 4 courtrooms for Superior Court use. All courtrooms are available for use by the lower classes of court as needed with scheduling preference given to Superior Court.

*Audio-Visual Need*

Since the construction of the courthouses, with the exception of one Walton County courtroom renovated, expanded, and updated with new A/V technology in 2022, the audio-visual capabilities of the seven remaining courtrooms in the circuit remains largely "as is" from those building dates. Occasional funds available have resulted in minor upgrades to the technology and to replace aging or broken components.

Problems exist with the audio-visual equipment in courtrooms in both counties. In some courtrooms in Newton County, the public address system no longer works at all or works

poorly, with humming audible when the system volume is increased. Additionally, the public address equipment in Walton County was removed with the installation of pandemic-related videoconferencing equipment to eliminate feedback and echo. The ARPA funds requested will result in current technology in all Superior Court courtrooms and, more importantly, technology that is consistent across all courtrooms in both counties for ease of use by judges, court staff, litigants, and attorneys.

#### *Scope of Work*

Proposals were sought by local A/V firms with local input provided by court staff and county IT and facilities personnel. The included proposals identify a variety of A/V modernization including: upgraded audio with fixed and/or wireless microphones and speakers; assistive listening and assistive display devices; Pan-Tilt-Zoom and fixed cameras; audio-video system processing with remote conferencing ability (i.e., control panels to control an audio-visual system); projectors and/or screens, TVs and monitors; A/V system racks; cabling; court reporter interface; media/press feeds for high profile cases; and design, engineering, and installation. These components will be integrated into a complete A/V system along with evidence presentation.

#### *Pricing*

I assumed responsibility for this grant after the former Chief Judge retired December 31, 2022, and therefore had a very short timeline in which to get up to speed on the grant requirements. Staff made attempts to solicit proposals from multiple vendors in order to have some idea of the cost of the project. Given the short timeline, however, we received only three proposals to date, but all are in the same ballpark, showing the reasonableness of the costs in this area. While these proposals were not obtained pursuant to local competitive bidding requirements because of the short timeline, the circuit will meet those requirements before awarding any contracts and undertaking the project if the committee approves this request.

As the proposals differ in their estimates, for purposes of the application, we have estimated a cost of \$115,000 per courtroom which is the higher end of the costs per courtroom received in the proposals. While some courtrooms may be a bit more and some less, this cost is reasonable given the likelihood that components may not be available due to supply chain issues and must be swapped out and some funds must be set aside for any electrical and cabling not handled by the A/V vendor.

#### *Project Timeline*

Total project completion will be determined based upon the signing of a contract with the selected vendor, the start date and the availability of components. We have been told that we can expect up to 3 weeks per courtroom once all materials are available. All vendors have indicated that the work can be completed in 6 months.

Sincerely,

  
W. Kendall Wynne, Jr.  
Chief Judge