

## Analysis

### Oregon Judicial Department

#### Change in Use of Courthouse Improvement Project Funds

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**Analyst:** Steve Bender

**Request:** Approve the use of \$500,000 of State Court Facility and Security Account funds allocated to the Judicial Department in the 2015-17 biennium budget for capital improvements to the Douglas County Courthouse.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The Legislature provided \$3.5 million for county courthouse capital improvement projects in the 2015-17 biennium budget. The projects are financed through the State Court Facility and Security Account (SCFSA), which is in turn funded by the Criminal Fine Account revenues. Approximately \$2.5 million of the funds were budgeted to complete life/safety projects at the Malheur and Wallowa Courthouses, with the additional \$1 million budgeted to address smaller projects in five other counties.

The Judicial Department is proposing to redirect \$500,000 of these funds, to replace the fresh water plumbing system in the Douglas County Courthouse. The courthouse's hot water pipes are unusable and have been turned off for ten years. The project will allow hot water in the building, and will also replace the cold-water pipes that are nearing the end of their useful life.

The funds are available because the Malheur project cost almost \$500,000 less than budgeted, and several of the smaller projects were not started. The Douglas County project is the highest priority in a ranking that OJD developed with the Association of Oregon Counties. The Douglas project was included in the Chief Justice's 2017-19 recommended budget request. If the 2015-17 biennium funds are repurposed to the Douglas County project, the project could get underway before the end of the current biennium, and it would be withdrawn from the 2017-19 biennium budget request.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.