

Judicial Department
Change in Use of Courthouse Improvement Project Funds

On April 25th, the Public Safety Subcommittee recommended acknowledging receipt of a report from the Judicial Department, requesting authorization to use \$500,000 of State Court Facility and Security Account funds allocated in the 2015-17 biennium budget, for capital improvements to the Douglas County Courthouse.

Two years ago, the Legislature approved \$3.5 million for specified courthouse capital improvement projects. A portion of the funding designated for those projects has remained unspent, however, because the projects came in under budget, or did not move forward. The Judicial Department requested approval to redirect \$500,000 of the available funds for capital improvements in the Douglas County Courthouse.

The funds would be used to replace the fresh water plumbing system. The courthouse's hot-water pipes are unusable, and have been turned off for ten years. The project will restore hot water to the building, and will also replace the cold-water pipes that are nearing the end of their useful life.

The Douglas County project is the highest priority in a ranking of courthouse improvement projects that OJD developed with the assistance of the Association of Oregon Counties.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.