



Legislative Testimony

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

Re: SB 5506

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

SB 5506 includes a limitation request related to bond expenditures for several important capital projects for the Department of Corrections (DOC), which include the following:

Capital Improvement and Renewal \$ 70,745,000

DOC manages a real property asset portfolio with a current replacement value of \$4.8 billion, with corresponding significant capital improvement and renewal needs. In 2020, DOC hired a third-party vendor to assist in the development of a 10-year Facilities Master Plan that would identify a path to prioritize, reduce, and eventually eliminate the Capital Renewal and Deferred Maintenance backlog. Prior to the development of this Master Plan, the most recent facility conditions assessments (the Faithful and Gould) focused on “observable” conditions. As a result, DOC believes prior assessments significantly underestimated the actual maintenance needs of the agency, as many systems are below ground or otherwise not “observable.” These limited facility conditions assessments were conducted in 2015 and 2016.

The Master Plan completed in 2020 identified that current funding efforts by the state to address deferred maintenance needs are insufficient and will not avert its rapid growth; that a significantly higher level of funding is needed to address and control deferred maintenance needs; and that if left unresolve, the deferred maintenance needs will continue to grow from the more-than \$200 million currently to over \$400 million by the end of 2023. DOC does not have the workforce or capacity to accomplish this volume of work in one biennium. The agency intends to request the needed funding to be spread over the next three biennia.

DOC will focus its efforts on the highest priority items identified in the facilities conditions assessments throughout the 21-23 biennium. These items include projects related to HVAC systems, electrical work, plumbing, roofs, security systems, and other infrastructure needs at eleven different institutions.

The following are the projects currently in the Governor's Recommended Budget for the agency.

Adult in Custody Computing Platform (AICCP)

\$ 475,000

DOC currently provides an AICCP which assists adults in custody (AICs) to meet their educational goals, fulfill legal mandates, and provide AICs the opportunity to learn about current technologies needed upon release. Funds requested in SB 5506 would allow for the procurement of server and network infrastructure hardware to replace hardware which has reached end of life, and includes the following:

- Replacing five servers which have reached their end-of-service-life (EOSL) and no longer are within a support contract with the vendor.
- Procure additional licensing for Virtualization Software, VMWare.
- Procure additional licensing for Management Software, WYSE Management.

These updates to the AICCP will provide the opportunity for DOC Information Technology (IT) Services to support a modernized and standardized platform – providing additional redundancies and data disaster recovery for the AICCP. This will also support more efficient and effective tools for troubleshooting and fulfilling standard staff requests, ultimately resulting in more cost-effective use of IT resources over the long-term.

Distribution Services Equipment

\$ 1,365,000

DOC's Distribution Services Unit provides critical functions and services to all DOC work locations and external customers. These include warehouses, commissaries, and transportation of food, clothing, and other critical supplies to all institutions across the state. Distribution Services runs a fleet of vehicles including tractors, trailers, and delivery trucks. Most of these vehicles are nearly 20 years old and in need of replacement, potentially affecting the safety of the drivers and the public while on the road. For example, the delivery trucks regularly have mechanical and electrical issues which are costly to fix – taking them out of service and creating additional transportation and scheduling issues.

DOC requests funds through SB 5506 for the purchase of one delivery truck, one semi-tractor, one dump truck, three trailers, two forklifts, and a bus. This purchase of additional trucks, trailers, and forklifts would allow for increased delivery efficiencies and improve DOC's ability to have continuity of operations on both the west and east sides of the state to accommodate state emergencies.

Off-Net Telephone Infrastructure

\$ 3,920,000

SB 5506 includes requested funding for the design, purchase, and implementation of a new centralized voice over internet protocol (VoIP) communications system (Cisco Unified Communications Manager, or CUCM) operated by DOC IT Services.

CUCM is a proven VoIP platform utilized by organizations worldwide. The system performs current legacy telephone functionality and provides relied upon public safety features as part of their security protocols.

In addition, the system has new features such as VoIP emergency speakers, overhead paging, softphones, fax server, audio conference bridging, and integration with DOC video conference system. DOC will achieve economies of scale by deploying the CUCM system's core components at the state data center services (DCS) and by consolidating voice service technology to be used by all DOC locations. This will replace the current DOC telephone systems which are reaching their end of life and becoming increasingly difficult to find components to keep running.

Opioid Overdose Prevention Body Scanners

\$ 1,080,000

Currently, many correctional systems utilize body scanner technology to successfully mitigate the introduction and distribution of illicit and dangerous items. DOC toured facilities currently using this technology and found body scanners installed primarily in intake areas provide a better tool to reduce contraband, drugs, or weapons from entering facilities. As traditional searches have proven to be less than sufficient to address the introduction of drugs or illicit items into facilities, the use of full-body scanning technology to detect contraband hidden inside and on a person's body would bring DOC up to the industry standard. Full-body scanners have been in use for years by airports to search for metal concealed on individuals, but emerging technology has enhanced full-body scans by identifying both metallic and organic materials.

The funding requested in SB 5506 for this purpose will have a direct positive impact on the safety, security, and wellness of AICs, employees, contractors, volunteers, visitors, and the community. The purchase and use of the full-body scanners would meet the Governor's Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic's Executive Order 18-01, which mandates DOC's strategy for continuity of care and strategic goals. It also supports objectives around employee wellness (including medical cost) and corrections outcomes, and Key Performance Metrics (KPM 1: Measure 17 Compliance, KPM 3: Recidivism, KPM 4: Staff Assaults, KPM 7: Level 1 Misconducts).

Oregon State Penitentiary Minimum-Security Training and Recruiting Center \$ 4,590,000

Having a dedicated training environment is crucial to creating long-lasting mental markers, especially when considering reality-based training. An agency-specific facility will enhance consistency by way of a centralized approach to training. The funding requested in SB 5506 for this purpose will result in access to a purpose-built training environment similar to the correctional working environment. DOC's current training locations have varying architecture and equipment and do not offer reality-based scenario opportunities.

There is also an option in this funding proposal for students to reside on site, utilizing one of the housing units as a dormitory. This option would reduce the need to find and pay for suitable housing while attending multi-day training curricula. It would also allow trainees a unique opportunity to live and work in an environment similar to AICs – a positive contributor to normalizing and humanizing efforts underway.

Electronic Health Records **NOT INCLUDED IN INTRODUCED BILL**** \$13,400,000**

Another very important project for DOC is the Electronic Health Records request for \$18.4 million which is currently in the Governor's Recommended Budget as a General Fund request. Since submitting the 2021-23 Agency Request Budget and receiving the Governor's Requested Budget, DOC has learned a significant portion could potentially be funded through bond revenue and not purely General Fund. Specifically, it is estimated up to \$13.4 million of the request would qualify for bond funding, leaving approximately \$5 million of the project still needing General Funds. DOC is in communication with the Legislative Fiscal Office regarding this new information. The agency would be supportive of adding this to SB 5506 – entirely dependent on how the legislature ultimately chooses to approach funding for the project.

In summary, the limitation requested in SB 5506 would address important capital investment needs of DOC.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill.

Submitted by:

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