
AOC-OJD Joint Taskforce Testimony
Ref; Policy Option Package 119

I would like to provide support for policy option package 119 and affirm Benton County's maintenance funding request presented January 2022 as it relates to the Benton County Courthouse.

As is well known, the Benton County Courthouse remains the oldest operating courthouse in Oregon and west of the Mississippi River. The building has undergone many changes since it opened in 1889 with the last major renovation occurring in 1977.

Benton County is currently seeking funding for the following maintenance items.

\$350,000 to replace the now failing historic roofing system.

\$205,000 to replace the hydronic boiler system.

With \$200,000 in County matching funds to repair/paint the exterior of the structure.

The key goal is to protect the building's shell and provide a controlled working environment for employees and citizens while Benton County explores options for its Criminal Justice System and future courthouse. The three items listed will provide at least ten years protection to the shell of the structure, allowing for continued operation of the courts and county offices.

The original stamped Victorian roofing system still bares the manufacturing date of 1886. In 2010 the roofing system was repainted and many of the roofing tiles were repaired with UV stabilized RTV. This was a stop gap effort at the time and simply can't be maintained. Replacement of the roofing system to match the existing one on this building inducted into the National Historic Register in 1987 is the only remaining option.

According to a 2016 survey conducted by Environmental & Engineering Services of Corvallis, the existing boiler was installed in 1987, making it nearly 36 years old. This is far more than the 25-year life span recommended by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) 2007 Applications Handbook. In 2022 Benton County upgraded the ignition and control system to improve reliability but the heat exchanging system remains suspect at best.

The Benton County Courthouse was last painted in 2010. Since then, it has endured twelve seasons of Oregon's variable weather. With hotter than normal summers and wet winters with driving rain, the paint is at its end. Benton County is pleased to be able to put skin in the game to ensure the longevity of the courthouse and continuation of operations.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I understand as well as anyone that needs are high and resources are limited.

All My Best

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