

Minutes: Court Facilities Improvement Advisory Committee
Beryl Levine Conference Room and Phone conference
May 26, 2023

Members Present

Sally Holewa, Chair, State Court Administrator

Shannon Holter, Burke County Commissioner representing counties with a population of under 7,500

Seth Thompson, representative of the State Bar Association

Karen Karls, State Representative

Members Absent

Chad Peterson, Cass County Commissioner representing counties with a population of over 7,500

Others Present

Sara Behrens, Staff Attorney

Scott Johnson, Unit 1 Court Administrator

Gracie Lien – Grand Forks County Administrative Coordinator

A request was received from Grand Forks County to modify its proposal and ask for a new grant amount. The original bids came in much higher than anticipated. They are dropping the sound system. Ms. Holewa explained this would have been automatically approved, but the request is asking us to fund 75% of the new bid amount and she can't simply approve it as the Chair. The request is for the higher price base bid of \$195,000 and 75% coming from this committee would be \$146,250.

Mr. Johnson explained the essential components of the project are what they have been working on for years. The overall project is largely unchanged but for the voice enunciation system. They are gaining all the functionality recommended in the reports to us to be able to enhance the security position that right now is fairly indefensible. The two sworn deputies in Grand Forks are in the same modular furniture set up more than 20 years ago. The bottom line for the scope change is to continue to move forward with the structure of the project and come back and look at the voice enunciation system at a later time. He was surprised the bids came back 2.5 times higher, however, electrical contracting bids have been coming in much higher.

Ms. Lien explained the original project was the security entrance plus the voice enunciation system. They based the grant proposal off \$231,715 but the bids came back over \$600,000 because of the voice system. They had the voice system removed from the bid. As Mr. Johnson mentioned, it still includes the safety of the entrance, including Kevlar paneling, to be able to preserve the main piece of the project. That change in scope brings the project down to the \$195,000 mark and 75% would be \$146,250. The commission also verbally committed to pursuing the voice system in the 2024 budget and continuing with that piece of the project. We

confirmed with Construction Engineers and KLG that this project will still be able to be completed within the year likely November.

Mr. Thompson asked for confirmation that the request is actually less than what was initially authorized. Ms. Lien confirmed that is correct.

Rep. Karls moved to approve the request of \$146,250, Mr. Thompson seconded and the motion carried.