

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2022	2024	2026
BCA Southern Minnesota Regional Office and Laboratory	1	GO	\$ 35,700	\$ 0	\$ 0
BCA Maryland Building Improvements	2	GO	\$ 3,950	\$ 0	\$ 0
BCA Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion	3	GO	\$ 29,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Minnesota State Patrol and Department of Public Safety Headquarters	4	GO	\$ 600	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Project Requests</b>			<b>\$ 69,250</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total</b>			<b>\$ 69,250</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>

## BCA Southern Minnesota Regional Office and Laboratory

**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$35,700**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is requesting \$35,700,000 in state funds to acquire land, design, construct, and equip a new southern Minnesota regional office and laboratory in Mankato, Minnesota.**Project Description**

This project includes the construction of a new, 43,700 square foot regional office and laboratory in Mankato, MN. The new facility will provide investigatory and laboratory analysis for criminal investigations in the southern region of Minnesota and provide a convenient location for law enforcement agencies to access services in a more efficient manner. This project will also increase available training space for use by BCA training, local law enforcement, and for informational sessions to various groups and community members.

**Project Rationale**

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is the state's criminal investigative agency providing law enforcement services, criminal justice records, and forensic laboratory services to all 87 counties within Minnesota as well our other partners at the local, state, and federal levels. Services provided by the BCA include providing investigative assistance in complex criminal investigations, laboratory analysis, criminal history record keeping, and training throughout the state.

In addition to BCA headquarters in Saint Paul and a regional office in Bemidji, the BCA maintains 11 investigative field offices co-located with local law enforcement across Minnesota to provide support to our criminal justice partners. The BCA currently provides forensic services within the Saint Paul and Bemidji offices. The BCA also has an evidence drop off and pick-up facility located in St. Cloud with limited drug testing at that location. Currently there is a resource gap in the southern half of the state including Mankato and the communities in southeastern and southwestern Minnesota.

Crime labs throughout the nation continue to experience dramatic increases in requests for forensic science services. The BCA is no exception to this upward trend and currently are experiencing large backlogs due to the number of requests and reliance on forensic evidence in criminal investigations and court proceedings. The overall demand for forensic testing has increased over the last decade. For example: the demand for DNA analysis has increased steadily every year with an overall 200% increase in the last decade; controlled substance submissions have nearly doubled over the last five years; and requests for analysis of digital media evidence has increased from 240 to more than 400 between 2017 and 2020. The typical turnaround time on a DNA case is currently about 120 days and having a facility in the southern part of the state would help reduce that time dramatically.

Minnesota police chiefs and sheriffs in the southern half of the state continue to face staffing shortages and challenges due to the number trips that they have to make to St. Paul in order to drop off and pick up evidence from the St. Paul lab. In some cases these agencies are driving over 400 miles round trip which is consuming an entire day, sometimes having to do this multiple times in a month. By having a BCA Regional Office located in Mankato, the BCA would be able to accommodate local law enforcement more efficiently by significantly reducing the amount of travel required by their agencies for evidence submission, review, pick-up, and interaction with laboratory, and investigative staff.

The BCA Investigations Division currently has four BCA agents located within the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office in Mankato. These Agents work closely with all law enforcement agencies within the southern half of the state. Currently, this office lacks an interview room, secure evidence vault, polygraph room, and adequate training space. There is also a current need to expand digital evidence examination but there is no space available to expand these services.

With the recent formation of the Force Investigations Unit, the BCA has shifted resources to southern Minnesota to be more efficient and responsive when requested to investigate an officer involved shooting or use of force case. This unit should remain physically separated from local law enforcement so that there are no conflicts of interest when called upon to investigate these crimes.

The BCA is also statutorily responsible for providing law enforcement training throughout the state of Minnesota. Training for officers within this part of the state is often offered in the metro or other locations requiring travel and overnight lodging. This can be an extreme burden on law enforcement agencies in southern Minnesota that may have limited resources available to them. This facility would provide a location for BCA trainings and reduce the burden to those agencies.

This facility would also allow for the forensic testing of evidence in-house and not require items to be transferred to and from BCA Headquarter in Saint Paul. This facility would also allow specialized investigative functions such as polygraph exams, facial reconstruction, digital evidence examination, audio/video enhancement, 3D Scanner data review and preparation, to be completed within this new facility. It is anticipated that this facility will handle about 6,000 forensic cases annually and examine 12,000 pieces of evidence. This facility will improve turnaround times, which will allow for a more efficient investigative process for local law enforcement and the county attorneys that they work with, which ultimately benefits the victims of crimes.

### **Project Timeline**

Predesign: Completed June 2021

Design: September 2022 to May 2023 (9 months)

Bidding & Award: June 2023 to August 2023 (2 months)

Construction: September 2023 to August 2024 (12 months)

Occupancy: September 2024

### **Other Considerations**

#### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This new facility will add operational costs associated with new construction, but the majority of the

staff operating out of this facility will be relocated from the six investigations field offices in the region and the St. Paul Forensic Laboratory. Additional staffing needs are expected to be minimal at occupancy, but will grow as demand increases. Some of this cost will be offset as the field offices are no longer needed and shut down.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

FY21 appropriation of \$100,000 for project predesign

**Project Contact Person**

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## BCA Maryland Building Improvements

**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$3,950**Priority Ranking:** 2

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is requesting \$2,200,000 in state funds for build out of approximately 7,600 square feet of unfinished space on the first floor of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension building for office and support spaces. The department is also requesting \$1,750,000 in state funds for building security upgrades, including construction of a perimeter fence at the BCA.

**Project Description**

The BCA would like to utilize approximately 7,600 square feet of unfinished space on the first floor of its building at 1430 Maryland Avenue in St. Paul for office and support spaces. The area is currently rough graded soil and sand that has been prepped for concrete.

The project would add an additional 10 offices, 36 open workstations, three conference rooms, two storage rooms, two electrical rooms, one kitchenette/break area, restrooms, and necessary security improvements. These security improvements would continue to allow public access to the building while providing greater security to sensitive areas and the employees at our facility.

**Project Rationale**

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is legislatively mandated to provide law enforcement services to all 87 Minnesota counties, as well our other partners at the local, state, and federal levels. Services provided by the BCA include providing investigative assistance in complex proactive and reactive criminal investigations, laboratory analysis, criminal history record keeping, and training throughout the state.

In 2003 the BCA moved into its current location which had been constructed specifically to meet the needs of this agency. This building has had an unfinished space that had initially been planned as a gun range for law enforcement training, and 16 years later that space remains unconstructed.

Since 2003 the BCA has taken on many more responsibilities and programs designed to assist law enforcement in our state. The number of employees has increased significantly over the years and the BCA is out of space. The BCA has converted existing meeting room space into offices and made other adjustments to accommodate this growth. At this point there are no other options other to look at offsite space or finish the empty space within our building.

When the current BCA building was constructed, security standards were not at the current levels they are today. The threat of terrorism has risen and new unique security threats have emerged as the BCA has become a higher profile organization due to the duties and tasks assigned. The BCA worked with the US Department of Homeland Security to conduct a security assessment of the BCA

building. This assessment resulted in numerous security recommendations, of most concern was the perimeter security of the BCA. The audit noted the current fencing was insufficient and did little more than demarcate a boundary line. The recommendation is to increase the height of the fencing and install outriggers to enhance the penetration delay of objects and vehicles. Homeland Security also noted that the BCA currently utilizes bollards to limit vehicle entry, but that the current utilization does not cover all potential intentional or unintentional vehicle entry points.

### **Project Timeline**

July 2022: Projected Start Date for Both Projects

December 2022: Projected Completion Date of Fencing Project

June 2023: Projected Completion Date of the Space Buildout

### **Other Considerations**

Predesign was completed in FY 2019 using current resources.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

DPS-BCA will pay the Department of Administration \$22.05 per square foot for the Maryland location in FY 2023. This project adds approximately 7,600 square feet of new finished space. This additional square footage at the FY 2023 rate will cost an estimated \$168,000 more per year.

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

None.

### **Project Contact Person**

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### BCA Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion

#### AT A GLANCE

**2022 Request Amount:** \$29,000

**Priority Ranking:** 3

**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is requesting \$29,000,000 in state funds to renovate and expand the Bemidji Regional Facility located in Bemidji, MN.

#### Project Description

This project includes renovating the 26,000 square foot Bemidji Regional Office and Forensic Science Laboratory and a 27,000 square foot expansion. The renovation and expansion project will provide additional space and resources to support the increases in demand for investigatory and laboratory analysis for criminal investigations in the northern region of Minnesota. This project will also increase available training space for use by BCA training, local law enforcement, and for informational sessions to various groups and community members.

#### Project Rationale

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) is the state's criminal investigative agency providing law enforcement services, criminal justice records, and forensic laboratory services to all 87 counties within Minnesota as well our other partners at the local, state, and federal levels. Services provided by the BCA include providing investigative assistance in complex criminal investigations, laboratory analysis, criminal history record keeping, and training throughout the state.

In addition to BCA headquarters in Saint Paul and a regional office in Bemidji, the BCA maintains 11 investigative field offices co-located with local law enforcement across Minnesota to provide support to our criminal justice partners. The BCA currently provides forensic services within the Saint Paul and Bemidji offices. The BCA also has an evidence drop off and pick-up facility located in St. Cloud with limited drug testing at that location. Currently there is a resource gap in the southern half of the state including Mankato and the communities in southeastern and southwestern Minnesota.

The Bemidji regional facility was built in 2001 with the goal to provide equitable services and response times to those served in the northern portion of the state. Over the past 20 years, this facility has provided exceptional services in support of northern MN criminal justice efforts. However, the existing facility is no longer adequate to address the needs of the region as the service demands continue to increase in volume and complexity. An expansion of the existing facility is needed in order to continue providing the cutting edge law enforcement resources required in the communities in northeastern and northwestern Minnesota.

The BCA Bemidji Regional Office opened its doors in October of 2001 and included a forensic services laboratory and an investigations division. When it opened, the forensic laboratory was staffed with less than 10 full time employees (FTE) and has since grown to 20 FTEs who provide forensic analysis in

firearms, latent prints, biology, chemistry, and crime scene response. The demand for forensic services on this laboratory has more than tripled over the past 15 years – there were about 5,060 items submitted in 2003 and more than 14,200 in 2018. The addition of Rapid DNA technology and Digital and Multimedia Evidence (DME) analysis capabilities, as well as increased expedited evidence screening services have further challenged the limited space that is currently available for the vast array of services offered to law enforcement. In order to keep up with growing service demands, BCA projects that staff size will need to double in the next 20 years, but the BCA has maximized the use of this facility and there is no more room to grow. One example of the lack of space includes the recent retrofitting of a windowless storage closet in order to house the recently added DME section of the laboratory, which includes workspace for two digital media evidence (DME) analysts and their equipment.

Crime labs throughout the nation continue to experience dramatic increases in requests for forensic science services. The BCA is no exception to this upward trend and currently are experiencing large backlogs due to the number of requests and reliance on forensic evidence in criminal investigations and court proceedings. The overall demand for forensic testing has increased over the last decade. For example: the demand for DNA analysis has increased steadily every year with an overall 200% increase in the last decade; controlled substance submissions have nearly doubled over the last five years; and requests for analysis of digital media evidence has increased from 240 to more than 400 between 2017 and 2020. The typical turnaround time on a DNA case is currently about 120 days and having a facility in the southern part of the state would help reduce that time dramatically.

Expansion of the current facility would allow for more efficient deployment of services and provide support for the needed expansions to address current and future caseloads. This will improve turnaround times, which will allow for a more efficient investigative process for local law enforcement and the county attorneys that they work with, which ultimately benefits the victims of crimes.

The BCA Investigations Division currently has ten special agents located in the Bemidji regional office. These agents work closely with all law enforcement agencies in the northern portion of the state. Currently, this office lacks an interview room, secure evidence vault, polygraph room, and adequate training space. There is a need to expand digital evidence examination, but there is no space available to expand these services. This facility would also allow specialized investigative functions such as polygraph exams, facial reconstruction, digital evidence examination, audio/video enhancement, 3D Scanner data review and preparation, to be completed within this new facility.

With the recent formation of the Force Investigations Unit, the BCA has shifted resources to northern Minnesota to be more efficient and responsive when requested to investigate an officer involved shooting or use of force case. This unit should remain physically separated from local law enforcement so that there are no conflicts of interest when called upon to investigate these crimes.

The BCA is also statutorily responsible for providing law enforcement training throughout the state of Minnesota. Although the Bemidji regional facility has some training space, it is too small for most training classes. With few exceptions, training for officers within this part of the state is often offered in the metro or other locations requiring travel and overnight lodging. Predesign planning of Bemidji Facility expansion includes a significant increase in space allotted for training activities. By expanding BCA training opportunities, the BCA would be able to accommodate local law enforcement more



efficiently by significantly reducing costs associated with lodging, drive time, and duty backup coverage associated with required continuing education.

**Project Timeline**

Predesign: Completed June 2021

Design: September 2022 to May 2023 (9 months)

Bidding & Award: June 2023 to August 2023 (2 months)

Construction: September 2023 to August 2024 (12 months)

Occupancy: September 2024

**Other Considerations**

**Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

This new facility will add operational costs associated with new construction, but the majority of the staff operating out of this facility will be relocated from the six investigations field offices in the region and the St. Paul Forensic Laboratory. Additional staffing needs are expected to be minimal at occupancy, but will grow as demand increases. Some of this cost will be offset as the field offices are no longer needed and shut down.

**Description of Previous Appropriations**

**Project Contact Person**

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(\$ in thousands)

## Minnesota State Patrol and Department of Public Safety Headquarters

**AT A GLANCE****2022 Request Amount:** \$600**Priority Ranking:** 4**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety is requesting \$600 thousand in state funds for the predesign of a new headquarters building for the Minnesota State Patrol and the Department of Public Safety**Project Description**

This project request would provide a predesign for a new community based headquarters facility. The new facility will provide office space and associated parking for the majority of the agency's operational divisions, four agency support divisions, and will include space for the Minnesota Board of Fire Fighter Training and Education and the Office of State Safety Oversight. The project will also provide a commercial street level use with a Driver and Vehicle Services public counter. This request also includes the projected out year funding for the design and construction of the building.

**Project Rationale**

The new facility will increase visibility and improve access for our citizens and business partners who rely on the services provided by our divisions for enforcement, education, licensing, and justice services. The project will result in the relocation of our agency within the Capitol Complex, where the department is responsible for providing safety, security, and emergency response services, allow for greater control over facility management and space planning overall, address our needs with an eye to the future of the agency, and provide improved opportunities to contribute towards the statewide sustainability goals.

The Minnesota State Patrol and the Department of Public Safety are currently housed in a large multi-level rental complex in downtown Saint Paul. The divisions within our agency are not adjacent to each other and are located throughout eight floors and two buildings (Town Square and the Bremer tower). This type of decentralization is not effective for cross division collaboration. There are increased security concerns due to numerous entrances and exits throughout our lease spaced. There is significant confusion to our customers and business partners who are attempting to conduct business within our facility. In addition, our agency has outgrown the current space and there is limited room for expansion and growth.

The Department of Public Safety has several public facing operational divisions including the Minnesota State Patrol, Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement, Driver and Vehicle Services, Fire Marshal, Pipeline Safety, and Office of Justice Programs. There is no ability in the current leased space to make the public aware of our location within the leased space, or help in educating the public that the divisions are part of a larger organization. This lack of understanding of the work of the

Department of Public Safety increases barriers that Minnesotans face in accessing services, and hinders our recruitment and public engagement efforts. Being housed in a single location on the Capitol Complex will increase the department's visibility to the public and allow for the department to host public engagement events.

### **Project Timeline**

Predesign: Summer 2022 – Fall 2023

### **Other Considerations**

Inherent in the building design and co-location of DPS services is the State of Minnesota and Department of Public Safety's commitment to addressing racial, gender and disability disparities. The new DPS headquarters will be accessible and inclusive. The diversity of customer experiences will be centered in the design of public-facing spaces. DPS and architects will engage with residents to learn what service and accessibility details should be considered so that all customers and State employees feel that they are safe and welcome in the new headquarters building.

### **Impact on Agency Operating Budgets**

### **Description of Previous Appropriations**

None

### **Project Contact Person**

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