



Kansas Bureau of Investigation

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Joint Committee on State Building Construction

Kansas Bureau of Investigation Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Presented by
Kirk Thompson, Director
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Members of the Committee:

My name is Kirk Thompson; I am the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI). I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the KBI five-year Capital Improvement Plan. Last September when I stood before you as the newly appointed Director, I focused my comments in two general areas: (1) Critical agency building maintenance needs and (2) our continuing efforts to help resolve a long term forensic laboratory capacity concern with the construction of a new forensic laboratory in Topeka.

At the center of our capital improvement plan, then and now, is the belief that safe, functional and properly maintained facilities are absolutely essential to our efforts to provide critical and professional services to the law enforcement community and the citizens of our state. As you know our primary mission is to collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to provide forensic, investigative and records services that have a direct and positive impact on the safety and security of every community across our great state. We are here to solve crime and thereby prevent further victimization of our citizens by those offenders. We know that buildings don't solve crimes, but they are an important tool in our toolbox. For that reason we believe that our capital and maintenance requests go to the very heart of one of the core functions of state government – public safety.

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Today I would like to focus my comments in three separate areas: (1) I would like to update you on the progress we have made in regard to the critical maintenance issues that we brought to your attention last year, (2) I would like to quickly review the KBI capital improvement plan for the next five years and (3) I would like to brief you on some exciting news regarding the status of our flagship project – a new forensic laboratory.

Last year we identified three high priority projects that we believed had to be addressed out of concern for the safety of our employees and the possibility of a mission critical failure. I am happy to report that those projects were funded in the Governor's budget and passed by the 2012 legislature. The work has either been completed or is underway. Let me quickly recap.

We received a 2012 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$29,500 to remediate asbestos that was discovered in our Topeka facility. The removal of the asbestos from our 1929 vintage building has been accomplished and other plumbing and electrical maintenance that could not be done due to the contamination will be completed later this year.

We received a 2012 supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 to repair a failing exterior wall at our Topeka facility. Unfortunately, the bids we received for those repairs were substantially higher than the original estimates. We feel the proposals we received are unreasonable and have asked the project to be re-bid. We are currently awaiting those results. When we believe that we have the best possible bid price we will initiate and complete the project.

We are also in the final stages of completing an FY 2012 project to replace the emergency generator at our headquarters facility. We identified the aging emergency generator as a critical project and received \$100,000 in funding for replacement in 2012. During the course of implementing that project we became concerned over the condition of the failing exterior wall that I mentioned before. The generator is situated right next to that wall and it was decided that the wall should be repaired before setting the large emergency generator in place.

Unfortunately, while in the bid process for the wall, we suffered a simultaneous line power failure and a generator failure, which took the entire KCJIS network off line for several hours. Our priority, by necessity, then shifted to making the generator repairs. We rented a large trailer mounted generator to provide protection for the KCJIS Network, freezers containing evidence and our extensive inventory of scientific equipment, while the work on our generator was being completed. I am now happy to report that the generator has been repaired and re-

installed at headquarters. A new Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) for the facility is in the final stages of installation and will complete that project.

We also received an appropriation of \$200,000 for FY 2013 to replace the main electrical switchgear at headquarters. As you may recall we were informed by engineers that the switchgear was critically inadequate and likely would not survive a lightning strike or major power surge. That project will be initiated and completed this fiscal year. Unfortunately, the switch gear is also located adjacent to the failing exterior wall, so we will make every effort to address the wall repair before repairing the switchgear.

All in all several major maintenance issues at headquarters have been or will be addressed. We greatly appreciate the assistance that we received in the Governor's budget and from the legislature to remedy those concerns.

The second area that I would like to briefly discuss is our five year capital plan, the bulk of which deals with facility maintenance issues. Intermittently for the past several years the KBI has received a \$100,000 appropriation in the Governor's budget to address discretionary rehabilitation and repair concerns. This funding has been essential for the upkeep of our aging facilities in Topeka and in Great Bend and is essential for our operations. We maintain a schedule of needed maintenance and address those issues on a priority basis with that funding. Unfortunately, other major projects present themselves and due to their cost, require the submission of an enhancement request to supplement that general appropriation.

For SFY 2014, the KBI will be submitting enhancement requests for two such projects. These requests are slightly different from those submitted in our capital plan. During our ongoing review of priorities, we determined that the replacement of the roof at headquarters (\$160,000) could be postponed to a later year so that two other high priority projects could be addressed in SFY 2014.

(1) Datacenter HVAC Replacement (\$75,000)

The KBI datacenter hosts the Kansas Criminal Justice Information System (KCJIS), which is a critical 24x7x365 law enforcement / public safety network. It also houses all KBI information technology resources. The redundant HVAC units, which cool the datacenter were installed in 1984 and have long since exceeded their expected lifespan. They are in dire need of replacement. In 2009, in order to provide supplemental cooling capacity when one of the primary units was down, another single 15 ton unit was installed. This unit does not have the needed humidity controls and cannot cool the datacenter on its own. The KBI proposes the

replacement of the two primary units to prevent the untimely shutdown of the KBI datacenter and the KCJIS network. The estimated cost of this enhancement is \$75,000.

(2) Roof Repair – Great Bend Regional Office (\$41,000)

The KBI's Great Bend Facility was built in 1981 as an office for a local oil company. The KBI moved into the facility in 1991 and has made significant renovations to utilize much of the space as a satellite forensic laboratory. The building also houses offices for KBI investigative personnel and offices for the Kansas Highway Patrol (KHP). The roof over portions of the building was originally constructed as a large moveable skylight. That portion of the roof has deteriorated to the point that it cannot be repaired. The KBI proposes the removal of the skylight and replacement with a conventional trussed roof with some smaller traditional skylight fixtures. Additionally, some other areas of the roof need significant repair. The estimated cost for this project is \$41,000, which is a significant cost increase from when the repair was originally proposed several years ago. Given the ever increasing cost for repair and the water damage we are experiencing from leakage, this project should be undertaken without delay.

In SFY 2015 and subsequent out years the KBI proposes to request funding and undertake the following major maintenance projects as specified in our capital budget plan:

- 2015 – Boiler replacement at the Great Bend Regional Office (\$25,000).
- 2015 – Expansion of the Kansas City, Kansas Satellite Laboratory, Evidence Control Center (ECC) (\$49,707).
- 2016 – Roof repair at the KBI Headquarters Annex (\$50,000).
- 2016 – Renovation of vacated forensic laboratory space at KBI Headquarters (\$3,092,000).
- 2017 – Installation of an elevator at the KBI Headquarters Annex (\$150,000).
- 2018 – Structural concrete repairs to the Headquarters parking garage and lot (\$50,000).

Forensic Laboratory Building Project

Last, but definitely not least, I want to take a few minutes to tell you about an opportunity about which I am very excited and enthused. At the suggestion of Governor Brownback's administration, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and the KBI initiated discussions with Washburn University regarding a creative and collaborative effort to address the forensic science needs of the state of Kansas and enhance the educational offerings of the university.

As we have consistently reported over the past several years, more dedicated laboratory space is needed at KBI Headquarters to adequately serve the needs of the Kansas Criminal Justice Community. We believe the needs assessment that was initially presented to this committee back in 2009 and updated this year clearly supports the construction of a new specifically designed facility. A new forensic laboratory will be a durable investment for the state that will increase the KBI's capacity to provide timely and professional forensic services. Prior proposals that we have brought before this committee to build a new laboratory have been supported, but ultimately not funded. We believe the merits of this most recent proposal warrants your most serious consideration.

I am therefore pleased to report that in furtherance of this most recent proposal, the Attorney General's Office received a \$100,000 appropriation for SFY 2013 to begin development of an architectural program for a joint KBI / Washburn facility. The funding was placed in the Governor's Budget and was supported by the legislature. This 90,000+ square foot facility would be constructed on the Washburn campus. While we are still in the planning stages and nothing has been finalized, the general concept of operations is that the State of Kansas would enter into a long term lease of the new forensic facility which would be bonded and built by the university.

The Attorney General and the KBI have engaged the services of Mr. David Emig an architect from Emporia and MWL, an architectural firm from Virginia that specializes in forensic laboratories, to develop the architectural program. A needs assessment has been completed and preliminary plans have been presented to the KBI and Washburn University for review and consideration. We really liked what we saw. Those preliminary planning documents are being tweaked and finalized as we speak. I hope that during the session I can provide this committee and the appropriations and oversight committees with drawings, floor plans, cost estimates and financing options.

Washburn University has been an excellent partner. We share a vision that pairing a university with a state forensic laboratory will have collaborative benefits that will grow stronger with each passing year. Not only will this effort provide for the construction of a critically needed forensic laboratory for the state, but it will help the KBI to address a significant forensic scientist retention concern. Our shared goal is to keep the best and brightest of our young people in our state, learning and working in a uniquely blended environment of academics and practitioners.

We are cognizant of the fiscal realities of our time, and that the construction of a new forensic laboratory is a major commitment of resources for our state. However, we are also cognizant of our responsibility to our citizens to provide them with safe and secure communities in which

to live, work and raise their families. We cannot meet the reasonable expectations of our law enforcement partners, prosecutors or courts with the forensic capacities of our current laboratory facility. This is a project that's time has come. On behalf of the men and women of the KBI, thank you for continuing support of our efforts for a safer Kansas.

I would be happy to stand for any questions you may have.