

United States Marshals Service FY 2027 Performance Budget

President's Budget

Construction Appropriation



April 2026



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I. Overview for USMS Construction Appropriation

A. Introduction

The United States Marshals Service (USMS) requests **\$15,000,000** for the Construction appropriation to plan, construct, renovate, equip, and maintain space controlled, occupied, or utilized by the USMS. The request is \$7,000,000 above the FY 2026 Enacted funding level and equal to the FY 2025 Enacted funding level.

The Construction appropriation was first enacted in 1999 when Congress recognized the need to establish a separate funding stream to address USMS space needs. The USMS does not own any space; it leases space through the General Services Administration (GSA) in courthouse facilities and Federal buildings nationwide. At these locations, Deputy U.S. Marshals (DUSMs) and administrative staff process prisoners for Federal court proceedings, conduct task force operations, and support all agency mission areas.

Budget	Construction	
	Positions	Amount (\$000)
FY 2025 Enacted	0	\$15,000
FY 2026 Enacted	0	\$8,000
FY 2027 Request	0	\$15,000

Electronic copies of the Department of Justice’s Congressional Budget Justifications and Capital Asset Plan and Business Case exhibits can be viewed or downloaded from:

<https://www.justice.gov/doj/budget-and-performance>

B. Organizational Background

As America’s first Federal law enforcement agency, the USMS is considered the Nation’s police force, and is responsible for protecting, defending, and enforcing the American justice system. The USMS protects the judicial process, the cornerstone of American democracy. The USMS uses the influence and reach gained through its accomplished history and broad authority to collaborate with other Federal, State, local, and international law enforcement agencies, as well as with concerned citizens and members of the judiciary, to form a united front against crime and threat against the U.S. justice system.

The USMS strategic plan identifies mission challenges and strategies to mitigate these challenges. This road map guides resource investment, establishes the steps to improve operational performance, and positions the USMS to meet future challenges. Over the past few years, the USMS has successfully executed its broad mission authority even as new mandates and congressional legislation have resulted in dynamic growth across program areas, often without the corresponding support for infrastructure. To successfully continue its mission, the USMS must have up-to-date infrastructure.

C. USMS Construction Budget

The request of \$15,000,000 provides resources to allow the USMS to manage critical courthouse renovations, congressionally approved new U.S. Courthouses, the Capital Security Program, and the Maintenance Repair & Improvement Program to construct, renovate, maintain, and repair facilities that require immediate attention.

The USMS occupies space leased from the GSA in over 550 courthouse facilities and Federal buildings across the country, including U.S. territories. The GSA provides the basic requirements to conduct business in a typical office setting – walls, windows, ceilings, floors, and doors – as well as associated infrastructure such as lighting and ventilation. Beyond this basic infrastructure, the USMS has unique requirements that stem from its law enforcement mission. USMS facilities include vehicle sallyports, cellblocks, attorney/prisoner interview rooms, secure corridors, prisoner elevators, holding cells adjacent to courtrooms, and special purpose spaces such as indoor firing ranges, tactical training areas, and training rooms. These USMS-specific requirements are funded, built, and maintained through the USMS Construction appropriation.

The USMS must process, move, and detain prisoners in a safe and secure environment. Renovation and alteration of USMS-controlled space, including installation and replacement of electronic security devices, is required to assure the safety and security of judicial officials, courtroom participants, the public, USMS personnel, and prisoners. USMS Publication 64, *Requirements and Specifications for Special Purpose and Support Space*, defines the specifications for constructing space and properly installing security measures in Federal courthouses. Publication 64 identifies and provides detailed specifications for hundreds of devices, including plumbing fixtures and air filtration systems, to establish and maintain security standards that effectively prevent prisoner escape, prisoner self-harm, or harm to others. For example, the USMS must ensure that doors leading to prisoner movement areas are properly secured with frame-mounted, motor-operated electromechanical locks, scramble pads, intercoms, duress alarms, door position switches, magnetic catches, and reinforced framing.

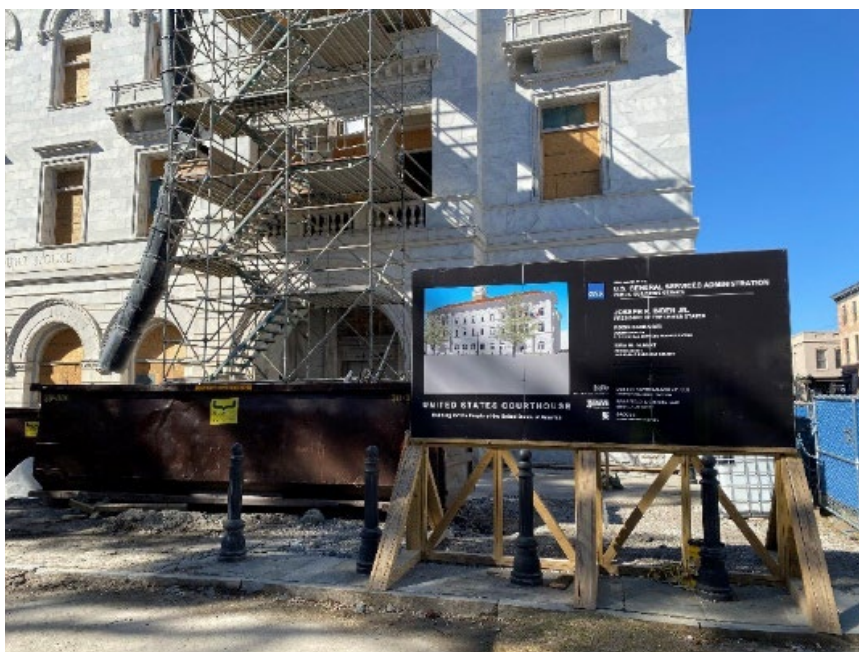
D. USMS Construction Programs

The USMS maintains a list of pending courthouse renovation projects that it has identified, reviewed, and prioritized for completion. Furthermore, the USMS is required to maintain, improve, and repair the safety and functionality of facilities supporting the USMS in areas not covered by an occupancy agreement.

In addition to internal projects, the Construction appropriation supports projects designated under two programs conducted by the GSA: The New Courthouse Program and Capital Security Program. The USMS is required to fund these projects on specific timelines outside USMS control; these resource requirements cause adjustments or scheduling delays to other USMS projects. The four program areas that impact the USMS Construction appropriation and contribute to challenges in funding projects to completion are described on the next page.

1. Courthouse Renovation Program

The USMS backlog of renovation projects which remediate critical facility and security deficiencies currently exceeds \$484,000,000. Newer facilities benefit from modern security features, while older courthouses frequently require significant upgrades to address deficiencies. Maintaining USMS infrastructure is critical to the safety of judicial officials, court participants, the public, and USMS personnel. The USMS uses a risk-based approach to renovation projects that prioritizes the highest impact renovations.



Savannah, GA – Historic courthouse restoration underway.

2. New Courthouse Program

The GSA established its U.S. Courthouse Program in FY 2016, when Congress appropriated funding for the building of multiple new courthouses. Congressional appropriations for the GSA courthouse construction fund only design and construction costs. The USMS must provide additional funding from its Construction appropriation for all above-standard items such as cellblocks, courtroom holding cells, prisoner processing, vehicle sallyports, electronic security, equipment, furniture, audio/visual requirements, relocation, and network cabling.

Design and construction of a Federal courthouse can take anywhere from three to five years, so the financial impact of current courthouse projects will continue to affect the USMS construction budget into FY 2027 and beyond.



Harrisburg, PA – New courthouse completed April 2023.

3. Capital Security Program

In FY 2012, the GSA began the Capital Security Program, which funded \$20,000,000 in security enhancements for Federal courthouses on an annual basis. The Capital Security Program funds the construction of vehicle sallyports, prisoner elevators, holding cells, and maximum-security corridors. However, it does not fund any electronic security devices or equipment required by the USMS. For example, when the GSA adds a prisoner elevator, the USMS must fund the cost of security equipment such as cabling, secure access control, camera coverage, intercoms, and duress alarm.

The USMS Construction appropriation typically absorbs \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000 per year to fund program requirements. Projects are identified in advance through a collaborative effort between the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts (AOUSC), the GSA, and the USMS. Project type, timing, and location are subject to the GSA acquiring construction services within the planned budget. If a project is delayed, the GSA will substitute an alternative project that could potentially cost more to the USMS than the planned cost of the project it replaces.



Raleigh, NC – Existing freight elevator used for prisoner movement will be replaced by a new prisoner elevator by a current Capital Security Program project.

4. Maintenance Improvement and Repair Program

As noted above, the USMS is responsible for the safety and functionality of facilities supporting the USMS in areas not covered by an occupancy agreement. The USMS seeks to maximize the utility and prolong the useful life of facility spaces by repairing and improving these facilities as part of a comprehensive approach that includes both unscheduled and cyclical (scheduled) maintenance.

Unscheduled Maintenance Program

Certain unscheduled maintenance requirements are not required to be corrected by the facility landlord. Facility-related equipment and structural system additions or modifications that are unique to the USMS operations are the USMS' responsibility to maintain. When these systems cease to function properly, they must be repaired or replaced in a timely manner. Priority is given to those discrepancies that impact safety and critical operations. The Unscheduled Maintenance Program absorbs approximately \$2,000,000 annually to maintain or replace systems and equipment unique to USMS facilities space.

Cyclical Maintenance Program

Cyclical maintenance supports long-term maintenance needs of USMS facilities, such as carpet replacement, painting, and furniture replacement. The USMS currently pays rent for over 550 facilities and occupies over 7,600,000 square feet of rentable space. The USMS continues to assess options for a carpet replacement and paint asset management plan. Carpeting collects dirt, dust, and other hazardous contaminants and over time this can cause serious health issues for staff. Loose and torn carpeting can present a significant safety hazard for personnel.

E. Challenges

The USMS continues to analyze cost savings measures for economies of scale; communicate transparently with the Department of Justice, Office of Management and Budget, and Congress; and pursue resources to provide effective security for the Federal judicial process.

Functional, updated, and well-maintained infrastructure is critical to the core mission of the USMS. The agency must provide security for judges, witnesses, and other participants in Federal proceedings and reduce the potential for harm to the public. Without the proper infrastructure, these missions are difficult to perform at an optimal level. USMS infrastructure is aging, and the agency is determining how best to address and prioritize its significant safety and security projects while considering constraints such as time, inflationary impacts, funding, and capacity.

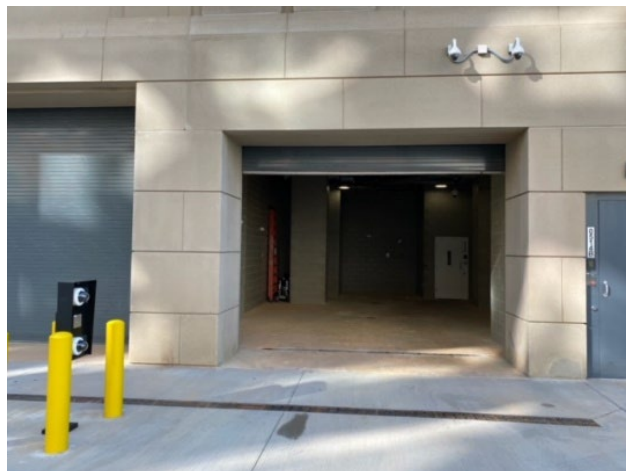
F. Typical Project Types

Sallyports

Prisoner transport vehicles access the courthouse through the vehicle sallyport, the first point of entry into the building's secure movement system. Sallyports are used exclusively by the USMS. Publication 64 articulates standards for vehicle sallyport size, based on the types of vehicles (automobiles, vans, buses, minibuses) that meet district office requirements as well as the district's current or anticipated prisoner vehicle fleet. Sallyports that fail to meet the security standards set forth in Publication 64 jeopardize public safety by increasing the risk of escape and present a security threat to the public and both USMS deputies and prisoners.



Augusta, GA – Prisoner delivery area without enclosed vehicle sallyport. A current Capital Security Program project including a sallyport is underway.



Charlotte, NC Annex – Exterior view of the vehicle sallyport rollup door (construction completed March 2021).

Prisoner Holding

Holding cells in the main detention cellblock secure prisoners in a central location within the USMS space while they await court appearances or interviews with agents and attorneys.

The unsecured furnishings found in older holding cells can easily be fashioned into weapons which could be introduced into the courtroom environment or used to assault USMS personnel or other prisoners. Older lighting fixtures provide a ready source of glass for weapons, or an attachment point for a suicide attempt. Painted furniture and walls offer opportunities to scratch graffiti and messages to other prisoners. Cells constructed in compliance with Publication 64 standards do not have these shortcomings.



Alexandria, LA – Holding cells, prisoner processing, and kitchenette in one area. Each should be located separately.



El Dorado, AR (planned renovation) – Antiquated USMS office dating to 1900s. Holding cell, prisoner processing, and DUSM space in one area. Each should be located separately.



San Francisco, CA – Recently renovated.



Marquette, MI – Renovation completed June 2021.

Prisoner Processing

The prisoner processing room is part of the main detention cellblock. Prisoners in restraints are escorted from the vehicle sallyport to this room to be photographed, fingerprinted, and processed before being taken to their cells. The room contains prisoner processing equipment, including a JABS (Joint Automated Booking System) station, and a sink and eyewash device.

Tight spaces, loose equipment, cables, and furniture present a hazard when processing one or more uncooperative prisoners. They can potentially be used as weapons against USMS personnel.



Location withheld – Prisoner processing room (carpeting drywall, unsecure door). Secure lock on door, but kickout vent leads to unsecure area.



San Francisco, CA – Recently renovated.

Prisoner/Attorney Interview Room

Interview rooms provide a private but secure place for prisoners to meet with their attorneys. Publication 64 specifies that each interview room has two sides, with a counter and security screen between them. Sound-rated slab-to-slab walls, limited egress, and signal lights ensure attorney/client confidentiality and provide for the safety of attorneys and the public.

Interview rooms that are not sight-and-sound-isolated from holding cells may allow other prisoners and law enforcement personnel to overhear privileged conversations, and extra measures (such as removing prisoners from a cellblock) must be taken to mitigate this risk. Interview rooms that provide multiple egress points for prisoners present a risk for escape.



Washington, DC – District Court interview room. No prisoner/attorney separation, plaster ceilings, antiquated door does not provide sight/sound separation.



Greenville, SC New U.S. Courthouse – Prisoner side of a multi-defendant interview room (completed July 2021).

Cyclical Maintenance

The USMS maintenance and repair improvement program provides a safe, healthy, and comfortable work environment for employees. This includes carpet replacement, paint, and furniture for USMS facilities.



Fort Smith, AR – Deteriorated furniture needing replaced.



Camden, NJ – Worn carpet with trip hazards; outdated, deteriorating furniture needs to be replaced with more space efficient systems furniture.



Minneapolis, MN – New furniture, carpet, and paint (completed May 2021).



Charleston, SC Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force (CRFTF) – 18-person Squad Room (completed March 2021).

II. Summary of Program Changes

Item Name	Description	Positions	FTE	Amount (\$000)	Page
	No changes proposed in FY 2027.				

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

United States Marshals Service

Construction

For construction in space controlled, occupied, or utilized by the United States Marshals Service for prisoner holding and related support, \$15,000,000, to remain available until expended.

Analysis of Appropriation Language

Construction: *For clarification purposes, the support costs related to the Construction Appropriation shall include contract-related costs that are necessary to efficiently and effectively manage the corresponding workload associated in executing these construction projects.*

IV. Program Activity Justification

<i>Construction</i>	Direct Positions	Estimated FTE	Amount (\$000)
FY 2025 Enacted	0	0	\$15,000
FY 2026 Enacted	0	0	\$8,000
Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments	0	0	\$7,000
FY 2027 Current Services	0	0	\$15,000
FY 2027 Request	0	0	\$15,000
Total Change FY 2026 – FY 2027	0	0	\$7,000

1. Program Description

The Construction appropriation allows the USMS to address the increasing renovation project backlog and critical major facility and security deficiencies. The USMS occupies over 550 courthouse facilities across the country and U.S. territories. While newer facilities benefit from modern security features, older courthouses require significant upgrades. Maintaining the USMS infrastructure is critical to the safety of judicial officials, courtroom participants, the public, and USMS personnel.

Construction projects focus on critical needs for courthouse security such as space deficiencies; detention safety; rehabilitation of outdated cellblocks; meeting Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards; upgrading the historical buildings' spaces and obsolete equipment that do not meet current security and safety standards; and supporting Departmental footprint and cost-reduction initiatives. USMS construction projects are prioritized into four categories:

- 1) Safety and Security Deficiencies – Addresses safety standards for all spaces within the cellblock including vehicle sallyports, courtroom holding cells, prisoner interview rooms, and secure prisoner corridors. Corrects critical security failures, and immediate health and/or life safety issues. Examples include detention lock failures, control systems that may result in prisoner escapes, and air filtration defects that increase exposure to contagions such as tuberculosis or Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA).
- 2) Court Initiated – Addresses the need for new U.S. Courthouses and holding cells for new courtrooms, upgrades to aging capital security, and renovation of buildings that do not meet current safety and detention standards. These projects are coordinated to reduce overall project cost while providing the required facility and security improvements necessary to protect and support the U.S. Courts.
- 3) Support Space Renovations – Covers all non-detention space renovation to include the squad room, galley, conference rooms, vaults, and storage spaces.

- 4) Lifecycle Replacement – Includes the scheduled replacement of overhead garage doors in sallyports; detention doors, locks, and controllers; vault doors and locks; and furniture, paint, and carpeting that are deemed obsolete or have reached the end of their lifecycle due to normal wear and tear.

Project scheduling is based on a variety of considerations to include agency need, project knowledge, contract progression, project development, relocation schedule, project staffing, funding availability, damage levels caused by natural disasters, mandates through executive orders, and safety concerns due to high threat trials. The construction project schedule is a dynamic document which requires frequent adjustments in response to changes in funding availability and updated risk assessments.

For older buildings that require major renovation, project plans are phased over multiple fiscal years due to the magnitude of areas that need renovation and limited construction funds available. For example, a prisoner elevator may be renovated as a smaller contained project if the USMS cannot renovate the entire cellblock and sallyport within available funding.

The phasing of new courthouses starts with conceptual designs, continues through preparation of construction documents and actual construction, and concludes with project completion. Project funding is allocated over multiple years (first year for site survey, second year for design, and third year for construction).