

For the record, my name is Karen Rantamaki and I am the Director of Plant and Property for the Department of Administrative Services.

Today I will be providing an overview of the projects requested for the Division of Plant & Property within the Department of Administrative Services. This division is made up of the bureaus of General Services, Court Facilities and Facilities & Asset Management. We also provide energy management services to state agencies and oversee the capital emergency fund, which is available to all agencies for unforeseen emergency repairs.

As we all navigate the changing economy, NH state government, as well as the rest of the world has encountered project delays, lack of available labor, and increased cost on the majority of its projects.

I was asked to speak about seven projects today, starting with the Bureau of General Services and the mechanical repairs needed at the Health and Human Services and Environmental Services building at 29 Hazen Drive. This is a large project to replace two existing chillers that are nearing the end of their useful life. Plant & Property has already authorized the design work to begin on this project due to its urgent nature. Recent tests on the chillers have shown that they are close to failure and we are in the current stages of planning for the replacement or the use of temporary chillers if necessary. These chillers are part of the critical system that regulates the climate in the public health labs and the facility cannot operate without these units.

The second project for General Services is at the Emergency Operations Center, another critical building that must remain operational. The various repairs needed at this facility include repairs to the water supply tanks (which are used if the facility is unable to gain access to the public water supply), repairs to the fuel oil tank which allows the emergency generator to run, and the installation of an emergency power connection to allow the facility to run off a portable generator if the hard-wired generator were to fail.

The Bureau of Court Facilities develops and prioritizes its requests in conjunction with the Judicial Branch. The top request for the coming biennium is for the construction of a new courthouse in Rochester. This follows up the approved request for design funding in the most recently approved capital budget. The \$14.8 million request would fund the construction of the Rochester Circuit Court, which is now being designed. The existing facility does not meet the current courthouse standards and has no space to include the Rochester Family Division, which is currently located elsewhere and proves to be confusing for clientele.

The Bureau of Facility and Asset Management has requested funding to increase the number of heating zones in the Thayer Building. This building of nearly 100,000 square feet is currently heated in just five zones. The lack of sufficient zones means areas of the building are consistently too hot or too cold and when boilers are adjusted to compensate, it results in overheating and wasted energy. The most common work request for Plant & Property staff is for the correction of space temperatures.

The Office of the State Energy Manager continues to assist all state agencies with energy saving projects in its state-owned facilities. Agencies submit reports annually on the projects they would like to do. Projects are evaluated by energy management staff and those with favorable payback numbers are funded. Some examples from this year's list include projects for insulation, high efficiency heat pumps for heating and cooling, boilers and furnaces, windows, and lighting controls.

Additionally, the State Energy Manager submitted a second request for funds to upgrade the remaining fluorescent or other older technology lighting to LED. This relatively simple project could save the State a considerable amount in electricity costs if it were to be completed. There are also some economies of scale that could be exploited if the project was undertaken as a whole and not piecemeal. As funding has allowed or when other work was done in a facility, the State has slowly started to migrate to LED lighting. It is estimated that about half of the State's square footage still needs to be converted to LED. The average payback period for this lighting, when solely considering the energy costs, is 7.5 years. This project would also result in significant maintenance savings as well as a more pleasant work environment.

Finally, the Division of Plant & Property is requesting \$1.5 million in emergency funds. The emergency fund is available to any state agency for emergency repair work to any of its state-owned facilities. In the recent past, the emergency fund has been use for elevator repairs, repairing leaks in HVAC piping, boiler repairs, and structural stabilization of underground tunnels.

That concludes the testimony for the Division of Plant & Property. I would be happy to answer any questions.

