

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Priority Ranking	Funding Source	Project Requests for State Funds		
			2024	2026	2028
BCA Southern Minnesota Regional Office and Laboratory	1	GO	\$ 43,900	\$ 0	\$ 0
BCA Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion	2	GO	\$ 36,064	\$ 0	\$ 0
State Patrol Headquarters Building	3	GO	\$ 50,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Project Requests			\$ 129,964	\$ 0	\$ 0
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			\$ 129,964	\$ 0	\$ 0

BCA Southern Minnesota Regional Office and Laboratory

AT A GLANCE**2024 Request Amount:** \$43,900**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is requesting \$43,900,000 in state funds to acquire land, 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 2023 to May 2024 (9 months)

Bidding & Award: June 2024 to August 2024 (2 months)

Construction: September 2024 to August 2025 (12 months)

Occupancy: September 2025

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This new facility will add operational costs associated with new construction. Staff operating out of this facility will include new positions funded during the 2023 legislative session, and others that will be relocated from the six investigations field offices in the region and the St. Paul Forensic

Laboratory.

Description of Previous Appropriations

The 2020 capital budget provided an appropriation of \$100,000 in general obligation bonds for project predesign, and the 2023 capital budget provided \$4.5 million in General Fund cash for this project.

Project Contact Person

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BCA Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion**AT A GLANCE**

2024 Request Amount:	\$36,064
Priority Ranking:	2
Project Summary:	The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is requesting \$36,064,000 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 2024 to May 2025 (9 months)

Bidding & Award: June 2025 to August 2025 (2 months)

Construction: September 2025 to August 2026 (12 months)

Occupancy: September 2026

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This new facility will add operational costs associated with new construction. Staff operating out of this facility will include new positions funded during the 2023 legislative session, and others that will be relocated from the six investigations field offices in the region and the St. Paul Forensic Laboratory.

Description of Previous Appropriations

None.

Project Contact Person

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(\$ in thousands)

State Patrol Headquarters Building**AT A GLANCE****2024 Request Amount:** \$50,000**Priority Ranking:** 3**Project Summary:** The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Minnesota State Patrol is requesting state funds to develop a new headquarters building.**Project Description**

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Minnesota State Patrol is requesting funding to acquire land, design, construct, and equip a headquarters building with consolidated metropolitan office space, training space, evidence storage, and related warm and cold storage facilities to aid in public safety response.

Project Rationale

The current State Patrol Headquarters is in leased commercial office space in downtown Saint Paul, a location that does not meet the minimum requirements for a secure police facility. Similarly, District 2400 East Metro (Oakdale), District 2500 /Investigative Services Section West Metro (Golden Valley), District 4700 Commercial Vehicle (Mendota Heights), and Training and Development Section (Arden Hills) are situated in buildings that are inadequate and not designed to be secure law enforcement facilities. This appropriation would fund the predesign of a new State Patrol metro facility or facilities that would fully address the deficiencies of the current facilities. This request also includes developing recommendations for equipment maintenance and storage for the State Patrol and DNR Conservation Officers.

The Minnesota State Patrol Central Headquarters houses support staff, centralized information technology staff, fleet operations staff, public information personnel, data request personnel, legal staff, and command staff. The facility is a multi-tenant commercial office building lacking a distinct presence, so much so that police and the public have limited awareness of a State Patrol has office location in Saint Paul. There are known serious security deficiencies that are inconsistent with best practices for the design of a police facility. The headquarters space is not easily accessible for the public, as parking is limited and is not free to any visitor. The current facility fails to meet minimum standards for a modern-day police facility.

District 2400 East Metro operations are headquartered inside a MnDOT facility in Oakdale. District 2500 West Metro operations are inside a MnDOT facility in Golden Valley. District 4700 operations (Commercial Vehicle) are located in an office building in Mendota Heights. All suffer from similar deficiencies as State Patrol headquarters. Troopers are forced to process evidence (guns, controlled substances, etc.) in the break room, on the same tables that people eat on. Some supervisors are

forced to double-up in offices that are designed for a single person. Secure evidence storage is limited, and no temperature-controlled storage exists for larger evidence (e.g. vehicles). None of the facilities have garage space to store squad cars as necessary or vehicles held as evidence. This lack of garage space makes it difficult to keep spare squad cars operational during winter months. As with the State Patrol Headquarters, the other metro operations facilities fail to meet minimum standards for a modern-day police facility. Currently, there is no centralized storage facility for equipment. Both the State Patrol and DNR store vehicles and sensitive equipment at inadequate borrowed space scattered across the state.

Several entities have highlighted the importance of logistics and rapid response to civil unrest, which can be improved through this project. Wilder Research conducted an after-action review of the 2020 civil unrest in the Twin Cities. They noted, "Procedures for coordinating resources and other logistics, such as transportation to support law enforcement operations, need improvement." The State of Minnesota's Civil Unrest Response Guide (2022) noted that having state assets located around the state is a challenge, as it takes time to assemble those assets. The Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) noted that logistics must be integrated into the planning process for management of mass demonstration. When discussing the design of police facilities, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) wrote, "There are also many shared programmatic areas that several agencies in a public safety facility can potentially share...Cost savings through common use can be substantial..."

Project Timeline

This project currently has funding for predesign, which will establish an estimated timeline to fully complete this project. Generally, it is expected to take about 3 months to complete the predesign, 3-6 months to complete design, and up to 24 months to finish construction.

Other Considerations

None.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This project is expected to increase agency operating costs. The fiscal impact of this project cannot be estimated at this time because the predesign is not yet complete.

Description of Previous Appropriations

The 2023 transportation omnibus budget provided an appropriation of \$350,000 from the General Fund for project predesign.

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