

**STATE OF NEW YORK
UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM
OFFICE OF COURT ADMINISTRATION**

**Recommendation of the First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
Re: Capital Plan Amendment Submitted by Steuben County**

SUMMARY

Steuben County (“County”) completed capital work in 2019 and 2020 to add and consolidate court space and renovate outdated court facilities. Previously, the Surrogate’s Court, Family Court, County Court, and Supreme Court were spread out in various buildings. In 2017, the Unified Court System (UCS) also identified the need for additional judicial chambers, an additional visiting judge’s office, additional attorney client conference rooms, and additional hearing rooms. The capital project consolidated much of court operations into the Steuben County Office Building Complex at 3 East Pulteney Square in Bath, New York. The Surrogate’s Court, Family Court, Supreme Court and offices, County Court and offices, and hearing rooms are all now housed in the renovated County Office Building A. The County engaged all parties necessary for this project, and the UCS is satisfied with the completed work. It is recommended that the Board approve the County’s capital plan amendment.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the completion of the capital work in Steuben County, the Surrogate’s Court was housed in the Surrogate Building, the Family Court was housed in the Courthouse Building, the Supreme Court and County Court had offices in the Courthouse Building and courtrooms in the County Office Building. Hearing rooms were in the Courthouse Building, and Drug Court was located in the Surrogate Building. Visiting judges needed a dedicated courtroom, and there was a need to move the District Attorney’s office away from the courtrooms in the County Office Building. Steuben County completed construction of the new Steuben County Annex Building in 2018, which allowed the County Manager’s Office, Legislative Chambers, the Planning Office, and Legal Offices to relocate from the County Office Building to the new Annex and the courts to move into the space vacated by the County.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Steuben County contracted with LaBella Associates in 2018 to create a detailed space analysis. LaBella produced conceptual drawings to accommodate the needs of the courts and of 20 non-court departments within the County-owned complex of buildings, and the plan to house all court facilities within the Steuben County Office Building was approved by the County Legislature. The new plans also included the installation of an inmate elevator at the existing sally port within the Steuben County Office Building.

Werth Construction Services was awarded the construction management contract in September 2019, and construction was divided into two phases. Phase 1 consisted of work on the

Surrogate's Court facilities and court security areas within the County Office Building, as well as the creation of new facilities for the County in the Annex. Phase 1 was completed in September 2020. Phase 2 began in September 2020 and included construction and renovation of the jury room area, various courtrooms, visiting judge's area, chambers, and other areas in the County Office Building. Phase 2 construction was completed in December 2021. The project renovated and upgraded 49,258 square feet among the five buildings involved. The courts now occupy a footprint of 33,058 square feet, an increase of 7,357 square feet. The project also added a new 63-space parking lot dedicated to the courts. The project scope conformed to current building codes and ADA accessibility standards. The project also incorporated energy efficiency upgrades, and the character of the historic buildings was preserved.

BUDGET/FINANCING

Steuben County paid for the \$9.6 million project out of its own general fund balance. They are not seeking state interest aid to fund project costs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Seventh Judicial District, OCA's architectural team, and the Executive Office have reviewed the City's project plans and are satisfied with the capital work that has been completed. First Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Norman St. George, acting in his official capacity as designated by the Chief Administrative Judge, recommends that the Board approve this capital plan amendment.