



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Jennifer
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Wortz
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
n/a
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Coldwater Fire Department
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
57 Division St.
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Coldwater Fire Department - Chief Dave Schmaltz
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Jennifer Wortz 35
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
In the early 1970's the Coldwater City Council made a bold move to save taxpayer money and increase efficiency by constructing a single building to house both the police and fire departments. The building was designed to provide both departments with the space, equipment and technology to meet the demands of the modern police and fire departments. The building became operational in 1975 and has served the community ever since. However, after 49 years of continuous operation, the building can no longer sustain the current demands that are placed on the modern police and fire departments.

Both the police and fire industries have drastically changed over the last 5 decades and unfortunately, the building, as designed, can no longer meet the needs of the community. In 1975, the world was a different place. Things like gender separation, cancer prevention, hazardous materials, EMS, domestic terrorism, school shootings, and communicable diseases were not really a concern for police and fire departments. However, that is not the case today and all of these new challenges require an updated facility to give the responders the best environment for success. When the building was constructed, both the police and fire services were male dominated professions, and the design of the Public Safety Building reflects that. The Fire Department has an open dormitory and communal bathroom design. This puts a tremendous amount of stress on both the male and female employees. Modern designs call for separate sleeping quarters and gender-neutral bathrooms. The Police Department locker room is in the basement and is separated into both male and female areas. The female firefighter has to utilize this locker room in the basement because the Fire Department's locker room is communal with no ability to separate into a male and female spaces. Having the locker in the basement is not ideal for responding to emergencies not only for the police, but especially for the female firefighter. Having to traverse a set of stairs and navigate through the building to just get to the apparatus bay is time consuming and slows down the response when the alarm sounds. Cancer prevention was never considered in the fire service until a few years ago. There was a time when dirty gear and a soot covered face was a sign of great firefighter. We now know that is not the case and we need to get ourselves and our gear decontaminated as soon as possible. Currently, only one firefighter can take a shower at a time which increases the time of our exposure to possible carcinogens. The separation from the apparatus bay and the living / work area is not pressurized to keep the contaminants out creating a cross-contamination situation throughout the building. Gear is stored out in the open and should be located in a separate room to contain possible off gassing, as well as degradation due to natural and artificial light. Workstations that police officers use are not in offices but located in open common areas. For example, one workstation is located in a converted vestibule off of the rear entrance. The workstation for the fire officers is located in the same area as the dayroom/kitchen area. We are asking for funds to upgrade the building for both the police and fire departments. An upgraded building would allow for significant technology advancements. Technological advancements play a significant role in improving emergency response capabilities. Upgrading the Public Safety Building would allow for the integration of state-of-the-art equipment, communication systems, and other technologies. This can enhance response times, coordination, and overall effectiveness during emergency situations as well as help with recruitment and retention of employees. An upgraded building provides an opportunity to implement energy-efficient and sustainable solutions that will reduce operational costs and enhance response times and coordination.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

6772110

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Would start as soon as the funds are received and would last for 18-24 months

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes