

SBI Lab Renovation Project: Cost Increases

Purpose of Project: To renovate space in the basement of the SBI Crime Laboratory to house additional molecular geneticists. These positions were authorized in the 2003-05 Budget in order to implement HB 79, which expanded DNA testing to all convicted felons.

April 2003 DOJ Estimate: \$500,000

The Department provided this estimate for the fiscal note on HB 79 (DNA Registry) as the cost of renovating space in the lab basement to house staff to carry out the provisions of HB 79. This information was provided to the JPS Appropriations Subcommittee. Funds to implement HB 79 were included in the Budget. Based on this estimate, the appropriation included \$516,000 (NR) to expand the physical capacity of the Molecular Genetics Section and purchase equipment.

July 2003 DOJ Estimate: \$1.0 million

After requesting a detailed estimate from an architect, the Department estimated the cost for renovation, plus contingencies and design fees, to be approximately \$1 million. Total cost with the addition of a storage facility was estimated to be \$1.2 million.

December 2003 Bid Estimate: \$1.3 million

The lowest bid submitted on the renovation was \$1.1 million. With an architectural/design fee and contingency fees required by the Office of State Construction, the total comes to \$1.3 million.

Proposed Funds for New Cost Estimate:

\$516,000	Appropriation for lab renovation in the Budget
\$65,650	DOJ sale of surplus property receipts (sale of an old SBI airplane)
\$112,633	NC Department of Revenue drug tax receipts
\$587,017	Office of State Budget & Management Repair and Renovation Funds

\$1,281,300 TOTAL COST

Project Status:

The project was sent out for bid on November 20, 2003. Bids from nine vendors were opened on December 10, and the bid language required vendors to hold price for 30 days. The lowest bid was for \$1.4 million for lab renovation and construction of a storage facility; the renovation piece was \$1.1 million. Design and architectural expenses, plus a required contingency percentage, bring the total to \$1.3 million.

The bid sent out by the Department included a 4,000-square foot storage and forms processing building, to house the items currently held in the lab basement. This facility was not included in the Budget Bill, and the Department has since decided not to pursue it.

Gov Ops Authority:

Under the 2003-05 Budget Bill (Section 31.7), the Director of the Budget has the *authority to increase the cost* of a capital improvement project using gifts, federal or private grants, special fund receipts, or direct capital improvement appropriations to that department. The Director must *report this action to Gov Ops* at their next meeting.

Section 31.5 also requires the Office of State Budget and Management to submit proposed allocations of Repairs and Renovations funds to Fiscal Research and Gov Ops prior to expenditure.