

## **Courtrooms**

- 5 courtrooms between the two buildings but 3 of the courts are very small and do not provide the space required for the way the courtrooms are currently used.
- Within the next 20 years it is projected that there may be as many as 6 judges needing courtroom space within the county.
- It is desired by the Judges that the courtrooms be consolidated into one building. This would have the benefit of allowing each of the judge's offices to be located in the vicinity of their courtroom. Currently the judges have to go back and forth between the two courthouses depending on what type of case is being tried.
- Security within the courthouse needs to be addressed to make it a safe environment for the public and the staff.

## **Clerk of Court**

- The Circuit Clerks are split between the two courthouses. Neither building has space for additional clerks or for additional file storage. The clerk's department is currently qualified by the State to have 4 more staff than they have been funded for.
- The Circuit Clerk herself has an office in each building and must split her time between them. Consolidation of the courts into one building would allow the Clerk of Court to consolidate as well.

## **Prosecuting Attorney**

- Over the next 20 years the prosecuting attorneys department is projected to increase by 7. There is not any additional space to accommodate the anticipated growth.

## **ADA Accessibility Requirements**

- Courthouses have areas that do not comply with the American with Disabilities Act. Courtrooms are not in full compliance with ADA requirements. The second floor courtroom and offices in the Common Pleas building are especially problematic.

## **Security**

- The main shortfall for security is the lobby security screening areas. There is not enough queuing space for the public to line up and they frequently have to stand in line outside of the building. In addition, trying to maintain security for both courthouses and the administrative buildings is costly.
- Consolidating the courts and other departments into one building with a single public entrance would reduce the number of bailiffs and security officers needed to secure the buildings. Currently, inmates are walked across the street from the jail in chains. This is an unsafe way to transport inmates and is very staff intensive. If the courthouse could be located adjacent to the jail then a more secure path from the jail to the courtroom could be provided. This would make the public, staff, and the inmates all safer.

## **Funding Sources**

- Sales Tax 1/8% approx. \$1.75 million per year
- Property Tax \$.10/\$100 assessed approx. \$1.2 million per year
- Use Tax 1% of qualified purchases estimated \$1 million per year