

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 15, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 63 : FUNDING REQUEST FOR SECURITY CAMERA UPGRADES AT DETENTION CENTER

This memorandum provides information for a request for additional funding in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Sheriff has requested \$175,000 in additional funding in the CIP to be included in the Sheriff Capital Facilities Maintenance Plan (CFMP) to upgrade the Alexandria Detention Center's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system which is an essential element of the security system. This amount would be in addition to the \$460,000 requested in the Sheriff's CFMP in the City Manager's Proposed CIP for FY 2012 described on page 6-68 of the CIP document.

The current CCTV system has proven invaluable but has limitations as only 60% of inmate living and program areas are in camera view. Sheriff staff has maximized their ability to use the existing system which helps in ensuring the facility is safe and more secure. The Detention Center houses an average of 411 prisoners per day. Staff reviews the video of alleged or actual incidents during investigations. These recordings are often used as evidence in criminal or administrative proceedings. This capability was crucial in the dismissal of the Sheriff's Office in a recent wrongful death civil lawsuit.

Shortcomings of the current CCTV system were highlighted after the Department's successful American Corrections Association Audit last October. During the exit interview, the auditor recommended that additional cameras be installed to reduce blind spots in the detention center. Sheriff staff have worked with staff in the Department of General Services on a plan with an ultimate goal to get approximately 95% of the inmate housing areas in camera view. This plan entails the installation of additional cameras and Digital Video Recorders to eventually achieve that level of coverage. Currently, the Sheriff's Department has just over 100 cameras in and around the Detention Center and Public Safety Complex. These cameras can record and the recordings can be viewed in the Detention Center's Main Control Center, at individual security posts within the Detention Center, and by management staff at their desktop computers.