

Augusta Georgia  
SPLOT Phase 8  
Project Request Form

Project Name **Judicial Center A/V System**

**PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET**

A. Submitting Department, Agency, or Association: **Augusta Information Technology Department**

B. Project Name / Brief Description:

This project would replace obsolete and poorly functioning audio/visual equipment in all 17 courtrooms of the Augusta Judicial Center, improving courtroom operations.

Check box if project represents a continuation from a previous SPLOT:

C. Project Location / Address: **735 James Brown Blvd, Augusta GA 30901**

Check box if Site Selection required:   
(If site selection is required, fill out section VI. Site Criteria & Standards)

Current Property Owner (if applicable): **Augusta-Richmond County**

D. District: **All**

E. Proposed Project Budget (round to nearest thousands):

Total <b>SPLOT 8</b> Request: <sup>1</sup>	\$1,600,000
Annual Operating Cost: <sup>2</sup>	\$ 200,000.00

<sup>1</sup> Figure from section III. Project Costs, first column (Total) for **SPLOT 8** Project Total

<sup>2</sup> Figure from section V. Operating Costs, first column (Annual Costs) for Total Operating Costs for Project.

F. Contact Person: **Tameka Allen**

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G. Project Classification **Public Safety**

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**I. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:**

**A. Project Mission Statement / Goals & Objectives:**

The goal of this project is to ensure that all courtrooms in the Augusta-Richmond County Judicial Center have high-quality, reliable audio/visual equipment, which enables full participation by all parties in legal proceedings.

**B. How will this project help meet the Public Safety, Basic Facilities / Infrastructure, and/or Quality of Life needs in Augusta Richmond County?**

Superior Court, State Court, Civil & Magistrate Court and Probate Court each play a major role in protecting public safety and ensuring quality of life across the County. A reliable audio/visual system is necessary for the operation of all the courts in the Augusta Judicial Circuit. The current system is subject to frequent operational problems that delay or complicate court proceedings. System replacement will enable the judicial process to function more smoothly and efficiently in response to the increasing volume of activity in the Judicial Center.

**C. Why should this project be considered for SPLOST 2015 type funding?**

This project would require a major capital investment beyond the scale of typical annual capital budget allocations.

**D. To meet the Project Goals & Objectives, when should this project be completed?**

2022

**E. Is this project recommended / included in any existing Augusta Richmond County Land Use Plan or Masterplan? If yes, please explain and provide necessary information.**

No.

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**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**A. Project Construction Program / Description:**

(Provide within this space a Construction Program / Description for the project. Agencies and departments submitting requests should be prepared to submit detailed construction information, etc., as required during the technical review process.)

The project would redesign and replace the audio/visual system in all 17 courtrooms and hearing rooms of the Augusta Judicial Center and John H. Ruffin, Jr. Courthouse, including hardware components, mixing equipment, infrastructure and cabling, interconnections and terminations, evidence presentation equipment, recording equipment, and video equipment. A consultant would be engaged to design the new audio/visual system and manage the project implementation.

**B. Projected Useful Life of Project:**

The projected useful life of this equipment is six (6) to ten (10) years (useful life varies by component).

**C. Site Specific Information: (address, tax map parcel #, etc.)**

735 James Brown Blvd, Augusta GA 30901 (Augusta Judicial Center and John H. Ruffin, Jr. Courthouse)

*Check box if site currently owned by Augusta Richmond County:*



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**III. PROJECT COSTS:**

A. Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from *SPLOST 8* only):

Project Costs (round to	Total	YR1 (22)	YR2 (23)	YR3 (24)	YR4 (25)	YR5 (26)	YR6 (27)
1. Land Acquisition / ROW /	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Design Fees:	\$200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	-
3. Miscellaneous Fees:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Fixtures, Furniture, and	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Construction:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Testing:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Construction Contingency	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. Project Management:	\$100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-	-
10. Capital Equipment	\$1,300,000	1,300,000	-	-	-	-	-
11. Other (describe):	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>SPLOST 8 Project Total:</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**IV. PROJECT FINANCING:**

A. Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from *SPLOST 8* only):

Project Sources (round to	Total	YR1 (22)	YR2 (23)	YR3 (24)	YR4 (25)	YR5 (26)	YR6 (27)
1. <i>SPLOST 8</i> *	\$1,600,000	1,600,000	-	-	-	-	-
2. ARC General Fund:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. State Grant:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Federal Grant:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
5. Previous SPLOST:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Testing:	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Reimbursement Amount	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Other (describe):	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Other (describe):	\$0	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Sources:</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

\* Amount from section III.A., "Detailed project capital budget costs" (*SPLOST 8* Project Total).

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B. Describe the current commitments for the other sources funding this project:

Not applicable.

**V. OPERATING COSTS:**

A. Total Annual Operating Costs when Project is complete:

Operating Cost (round to thousand)	Annual Costs
<b>(Estimated) Operating Revenues</b>	\$ -
1. Personnel Costs:	-
2. Utilities:	
■ Gas:	-
■ Electrical:	-
■ Water:	-
■ Sewer:	-
■ Phone:	-
■ Computers:	-
3. Operating Supplies:	-
4. Equipment Maintenance:	200,000
5. Facility Maintenance:	-
6. Non-Capital:	-
7. Other (describe):	-
8. Other (describe):	-
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS OF PROJECT:</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>NET INCOME (ESTIMATED):</b>	<b>\$ (200,000)</b>

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**B. Additional Personnel Information:**

1. Identify the number of additional staff positions needed when project is completed:

■ Full-Time: 0  
■ Part-Time: 0

2. Briefly describe the responsibilities of each additional staff position:

N/A

3. Identify the projected salary and fringe benefit cost for each additional staff position:

N/A

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**VI. Site Criteria and Standards (only applicable if site Selection is required):**

A. **General Criteria:**

**1. Acreage:**

- **Size:** Minimum acreage necessary for project, inclusive of parking and other
- **Topography:** Describe type of topography necessary to meet Goals and Objectives.
- **Estimated cost per acre:** Provide an estimated cost per acre and an explanation of how

**2. Location / Accessibility:**

- **Relative to its service area:** Define location relative to the project's service area that
- **Vehicular:** If necessary to meet the Goals and Objectives, describe what types of
- **Pedestrians:** Same as vehicular, but for pedestrians.
- **Bicycle Access:** Same as vehicular, but for bicycles.

B. **No further information on site criteria and standards is necessary for the project request form at this time.**

- **Development / Adjacent Impacts** (visibility, compatibility with land use plan, buffering,
- **Economy / Financing** (on- and off-site development costs, joint development
- **Environmental** (historic standards, traffic impacts, aesthetic standards, air quality, noise
- **Community Values** (displacements required, security needs, etc.)

**VII. OTHER IMPACTS:**

A. **Positive / Negative Impacts on ARC Departments, Agencies, or other Organizations:**

The audio/visual system supports the daily operations of the Superior Court, State Court, Civil & Magistrate Court and Probate Court. The current system was installed when the building was constructed in 2011 and updated in 2014. Several operational problems have plagued this system from the beginning but have been mitigated through smaller replacements and staff-intensive monitoring. Many components have now reached the end of their expected lifecycle. A redesign and replacement of the system would allow it to function more reliably and to take advantage of new technology to enhance court operations (e.g., video appearance).

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**B. Positive / Negative Impacts on existing Infrastructure / Systems:**

The system redesign will ensure that the audio/visual system is fully compatible with other existing systems in the Judicial Center.

**C. Positive / Negative Impacts on Augusta Richmond County Tax Base:**

The quality of Augusta's judicial system has a significant impact on the entire Augusta community. A reliable, easy-to-use audio/visual system contributes to the efficient operation of each courtroom, ensuring that court proceedings can be heard, evidence can be presented and recordings can be maintained for the future. A new system will also enable the courts to continue exploring new technologies -- for example, the expanded use of video conferencing for witness and defendant appearances, which could provide cost savings and greater efficiency for the court system.

**VIII. OTHER INFORMATION:**

**A. Provide other information that would assist in the review of this proposed project:**