


18 January 2000

ISP Chairman:

Attached hereto is the report on the follow-up to the ISP Study Requirements for Okaloosa County Government Functions.

As a result of this follow-up it is concluded that the county was pleased with the ISP efforts and is moving to implement most of the recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,


H.L. Dimmit

REPORT ON FOLLOW-UP OF ISP STUDY OF OKALOOSA COUNTY SPACE REQUIREMENTS

Met with Mr. Currie, Chief of Administration for Okaloosa County on 16 November 1999 to follow up on the ISP study of Space Requirements for Okaloosa County Government Functions. ISP was represented by Bill Maxson, Doug Harvell, and Howard Dimmig. The approach used was to determine actions taken by Okaloosa County with respect to each recommendation in the ISP report.

Recommendation: - *The immediate relocation of the Emergency Medical Service and the Sheriff's office functions from the Shalimar Courthouse to leased space.*

Okaloosa County Action: The Sheriff's office functions have been moved from the Shalimar Courthouse Annex. The Sheriff's Investigation Office has been moved to the Brentwood Building, which is across from the Courthouse Annex building on Eglin Boulevard. The county has purchased the Brentwood Building. The remainder of the Sheriff's office has been moved to rented space (on a five-year lease) in Shalimar.

The EMS remains in the Courthouse Annex, and has expanded into areas which were vacated by the Sheriff's Office.

Recommendation: - *The renovation of space vacated by Emergency Medical Services and the Sheriff's office and allocate as appropriate.*

Okaloosa County Action: The vacated space has been renovated and allocated as appropriate.

Recommendation: - *The relocation of the Public Defender's office to the Shalimar Courthouse Annex.*

Okaloosa County Action: The Public Defender's office has been relocated to the Brentwood Building, as has been the State's Attorney's office. The longer-range plan is to consolidate all judicial spaces in the Courthouse Annex, or a new facility.

Recommendation: - *The Emergency Medical Services should be relocated to provide adequate space in the Northern part of the county for the Sheriff in Crestview.*

Okaloosa County Action: The EMS has been relocated to a new building. The Sheriff's office now occupies all of the old building and has adequate space.

Recommendation: - *The Courthouse Annex in Crestview be renovated and upgraded so the space will be suitable for a minimum of five to ten years.*

Okaloosa County Action: The renovation and upgrade have been completed.

Recommendation: - *The tenants presently in the old Crestview Hospital be relocated and the building demolished.*

Okaloosa County Action: The old Crestview hospital building has been completely renovated and is now occupied by several county agencies.

Recommendation: - *The relocation of the Public Works functions on Okaloosa Island to the South County Road Department area, and the Island property sold or leased.*

Okaloosa County Action: Action completed as recommended.

Recommendations: - *A five-story, high-rise structure should be constructed at the present Shalimar site, in the courtyard and/ or over the present parking area, to house the courts and court-related functions.*

- *The County should contract for an Architectural and Engineering feasibility study to evaluate the technical feasibility of the new five story courthouse building and develop cost data.*
- *The County should identify and acquire land in the immediate vicinity of the Shalimar Courthouse Annex to provide adequate parking for the public and employees.*

Okaloosa County Action: The County contracted with HDR Architectural for a thorough and complete study of the needs and solutions for a Judicial Center for the next 20 years. The study report stated a need for an additional 100,000 square feet of space to satisfy requirements until 2010 and an additional 50,000 square feet to satisfy needs until 2020. Satisfaction of these needs at the present courthouse annex site were estimated to cost \$35 million. Erection of a property sized building at another site was estimated at \$25 million. The County is presently considering several alternative solutions and recognizes the need to make available an adequately sized and located Judicial Center.

Recommendation: - *Develop a countywide plan for proper handling and storage of files and reports. The maximum use of microfiche storage should be part of this plan.*

Okaloosa County Action: The recommendation has been implemented utilizing a new technology imaging system.

Recommendation: - *Designate a central focal point for coordinating all computer and software acquisition to support county government activities. A plan should be developed and implemented to gain maximum use of commonality and inter-operability of all computer assets.*

Okaloosa County Action: A new Information System Department has been established, which satisfies all portions of this recommendation.

From this meeting it is apparent that the County recognizes the need for adequate facilities to satisfy their space requirements.

The necessary planning and in some cases actions are being taken in which appears to be an orderly fashion. From a long range cost minimization standpoint they are moving toward county owned, rather than rented facilities.