Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Backlog Maintenance Of Armories

ISSUE

Backlog (deferred) maintenance of armories continues to be a critical concern for the Department of Public Defense (DPD). According to the most recent report from the Department (dated September, 1990), there is a total of \$4.5 million in backlog maintenance. The Department's next report on backlog maintenance will be completed in January 1993 and the total cost is expected to be considerably higher.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

Department of Public Defense

CODE AUTHORITY

Chapter 26, Code of Iowa

BACKGROUND

The DPD has a total of 50 armories located throughout the State. Construction of armories is funded with 75% federal and 25% State funds. Under federal agreement, the State is required to maintain the armories and provide security with 100% State funds. Due to State budget cuts, the Department no longer has the funds available to address backlog maintenance. Some major repairs that are not being done are resulting in accelerated deterioration of the facilities which will ultimately result in more costly repairs.

For example, the roof of the Boone armory has been in need of repair for the past 4 years at an approximate cost of \$30,000. Leaks in the roof have since caused structural damage to the building increasing the cost of repairs by \$25,000. In addition, the Department has numerous boilers that have exceeded their useful life and are in disrepair. Should a boiler break down and require replacement, an armory could potentially be shut down until funding can be secured (approximately \$35,000) for replacement.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Department prioritizes backlog maintenance from most immediate need (priority 1) to least immediate (priority 5). The following table shows the backlog maintenance by priority:**Backlog**

Maintenance of Armories	
Priority 1	1,567,100
Priority 2	252,100
Priority 3	368,400
Priority 4	681,750
Priority 5	1631159
Total	4,500,509

This maintenance includes major roof repairs and replacements, repairs to and replacement of heating and ventilation systems, structural and foundation repairs, replacement of windows, repairs to kitchens, and repairs to walls and ceilings.

ALTERNATIVES

Provide an ongoing funding commitment for backlog maintenance.

Close and sell certain armories to save operating costs and eliminate the need to fund backlog maintenance at these facilities. Funds from the sale could be used for maintenance at other armories.

BUDGET IMPACT

The Department is requesting \$108,000 in FY 1994 to fund backlog maintenance at the Boone armory. This includes repairs to the roof, walls, and heating systems. The Department was reluctant to ask for additional backlog maintenance funding due to the current fiscal condition of the State budget. The Department stated the \$108,000 would meet the most immediate needs of priority 1 projects.

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