

**ISLAND COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
**GREGORY M. BANKS**

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**PROSECUTOR'S 2009 CAPITAL FACILITIES REQUEST**

TO: BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
CC: ELAINE MARLOW, Budget Director  
CATHY CARYL, Director Island County Central Services  
HON. ALAN R. HANCOCK, Judge  
HON. VICKIE I. CHURCHILL, Judge  
FROM: GREG BANKS  
DATE: AUGUST 25, 2008

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We have no requests for new capital equipment for 2009. However, it was our understanding that Central Services has plans to upgrade many of the computers in our office before the end of 2008. We are unaware of the status of that upgrade, or the status of the funding of that project.

Although not part of our capital budget request, I would be remiss in my duty to the office if I did not again raise the issue of the lack of adequate office space. Clearly, this is a budget issue for the County as a whole. I have raised this issue before the Board in the past, and urged the County to engage in long term planning to accommodate law and justice agencies, including the Superior Court, Sheriff and Clerk. It is a problem that will only get worse over time without action.

In the prosecutor's suite, there are ten attorneys and nine paralegals. We are more than twice the size of the county's largest private law firm. We have converted our internal law library and our copy room into offices. My victim / witness coordinator is located at the end of a hallway within the office, and has no private location to meet with victims of violent crimes. My child support enforcement specialist has no room to interview mothers and alleged fathers about the details of a child's conception. My attorneys have no law library for extensive research or preparing trial materials. Our research materials are distributed throughout attorneys' offices.

I have proposed reallocations of office spaces within the Law and Justice Center that could be used to accommodate growth in law and justice agencies. Privately, I have received support for these ideas, but publicly county officials are unwilling to discuss certain sacred cows. In this memo, I will break the taboo and raise the issue publicly.

It seems to me that the WSU Cooperative Extension Service, which is inexplicably housed in the Law and Justice Center, would more appropriately be housed at a location that is tied to its mission. It has been suggested that space could be rented at the Greenbank Farm. I do not know if there is space for lease there, but there are obvious advantages to such a location, in view of the myriad agricultural services provided by WSU. There may be other locations that are also more advantageous to WSU than the Law and Justice Center.

Relocating WSU to a location more harmonious with its undertaking would permit the County Law Library to be relocated to the WSU space, and allow the Prosecutor and Sheriff to make more productive use of the second floor office currently housing the law library. This is but one suggestion. Clearly, there are others, but without direction from the Board, a productive discussion is not going to happen.

While many past and present County officials have privately suggested this proposal, none will discuss it publicly. When I have raised the issue of the prosecutor's inadequate office space, some members of the Board have suggested breaking up the prosecutor's office into other buildings. To do so would introduce inefficiency and costly duplication of effort, and serves neither the law and justice agencies, the law library, nor the fine staff of WSU's offices at the County.

I ask that you authorize your facilities and public works directors to meet with law and justice agencies and WSU to discuss available solutions.