Minnesota Department of Public Safety

2026 DPS Capital Budget Request

Senate Capital Investment
March 17, 2026

MINNESOTA

Project Updates

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Project Overview

Minnesota BCA Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Minnesota BCA
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

BCA Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion

Project Overview

$46.833 Million – Bemidji Regional Office and Laboratory Expansion

- Existing facility
  - Was constructed in 2001 with 26,000 sq ft; less than 20 staff
  - Currently 44 staff with additional growth expected over 50
- Expansion & renovation
  - Adding 27,000 sq ft for total 53,000 sq ft
  - Pre-design completed 2021
- Governor's Recommendation = $48,833,000 in General Obligation Bonds

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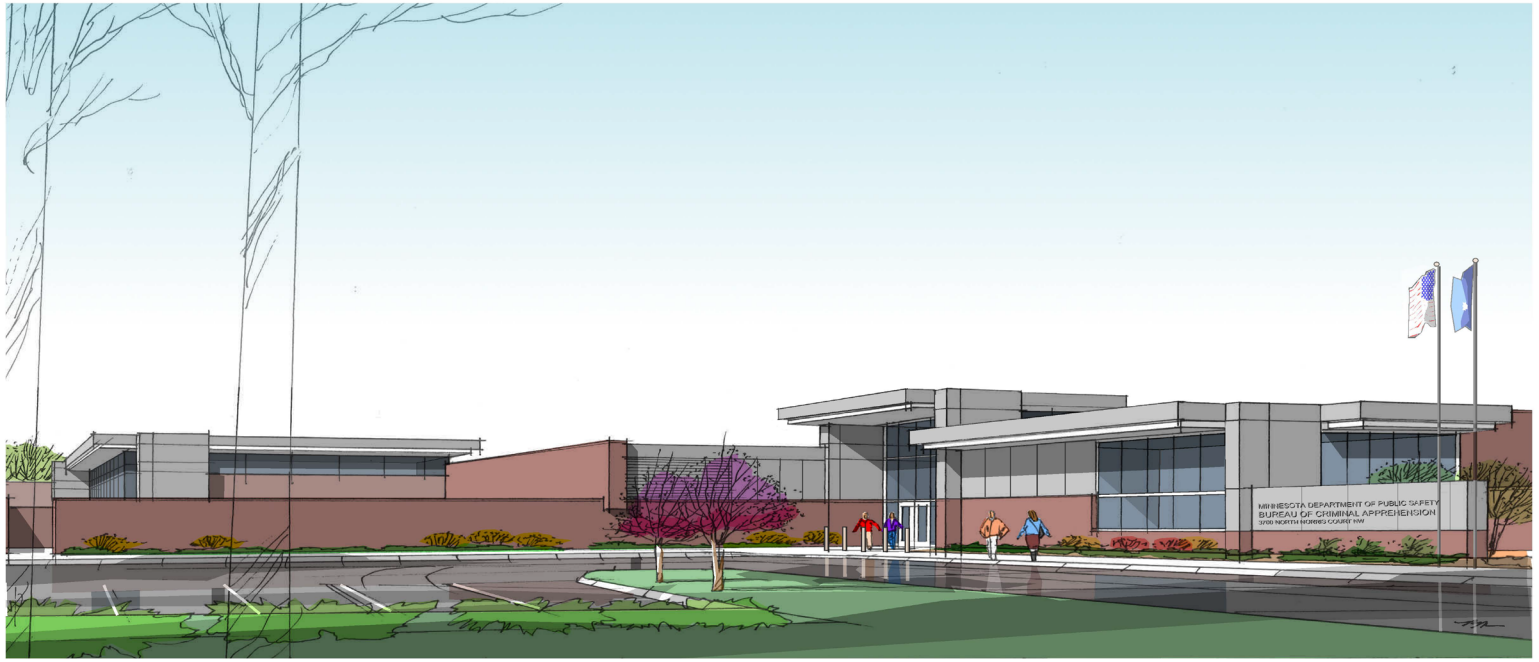
Building Rendering



BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION - BEMIDJI
Concept Sketch at New Entry 4-9-24

Wold

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Project Rationale

- Demand for DNA analysis has increased 5-fold over past 20 years
- In 2003, just over 5,000 items submitted for forensic testing
- In 2024, more than 12,000 items submitted
- Controlled substance submissions have more than doubled since 2010

Project Rationale

- High demand for digital evidence analysis, which was almost unheard of 10 years ago
- Staffing in Bemidji has almost tripled since 2001
- Use of Force investigative resources need physical separation
- Need for specialized, secure space for evidence storage
- Aligns with national law enforcement accreditation requirements

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Project Scope

Renovation & Expansion Highlights

- Digital and Multimedia Evidence laboratory
- Dedicated space for Rapid DNA capabilities & Firearms Database Program
- Polygraph examination room
- Facial reconstruction space
- Expanded, secure evidence storage
- Audio/Video enhancements and 3D scanning capabilities
- Independent space for Force Investigations Unit
- Expanded training space for regional law enforcement agencies

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Space Needs

Space Needs

Project Impact

Regional & Community Impact

- Expanded specialized investigative services in northern Minnesota
- Faster forensic evidence testing and turnaround times for investigation and prosecution
- Reduced time it takes for BCA to assist local agencies and their communities
- Reduced time of the road for local agencies to submit evidence
- Equitable access to critical services for northern Minnesota communities
- Access to quality law enforcement training at the regional level

Project Timeline

Phase	Timeline
Pre-design	Completed June 2021
Design	September 2026 to May 2027
Bidding & Award	June 2027 to August 2027
Construction	September 2027 to August 2028
Occupancy	September 2028

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Funding

Pre-design: $70,000 General Fund (completed)

Design and Construction: $46,833,000 General Obligation Bonds

Operating Costs: General Fund

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Operating Budget Impact

FY28 - $1,047,000 – General Fund

- 27,000 sq ft of additional space
- Estimated annual lease cost increase
  - $795,000 starting in FY28
  - Based on current lease rate for FY27 - $29.45/sf
  - Rate will likely increase after the expansion
- One-time costs - $200,000 (lab supplies & equipment)

FY29 and beyond - $911,000 – General Fund

- Ongoing operating costs – approximately $52,000 per year
- Utilities – included as part of the lease with the Department of Administration

Questions?