



RESOLUTION # 23-8/20

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AS AMENDED

ITEM # 8-13

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 2
Against: -
Abstain: 1
Abs/Excd: -
Vote Req: 2/2 Full Board
Other Action: _____

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 4
Against: 0
Abstain: 0
Abs/Excd: 0

RE: APPROVING VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT FOR COURTROOMS TO ENABLE IMPROVED SECURE REMOTE PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic most La Crosse County Circuit Court proceedings have been conducted remotely by video conferencing since mid-March of 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is likely that video appearances may continue to be necessary on an on-going or intermittent basis into the future; and

WHEREAS, although current technology has allowed adequate video conference proceedings to this point, there are improvements to be made as well as additional barriers that will need to be addressed when some of the participants are present in the courtroom and some are not able to be present in the courtroom due to COVID19-related concerns; and

WHEREAS, video appearances in court proceedings are significantly different than video conferencing in other settings and must replicate the "in-court" experience as closely as possible by providing all participants the ability to clearly see and hear everything that is occurring in the courtroom; by providing attorneys and clients the ability to privately confer and by ensuring that the Judge and other court personnel are able to efficiently manage their dockets; and

WHEREAS, only one of the five Circuit Court branches is currently equipped with video conference equipment and that equipment is nearing time for replacement; and

WHEREAS, new video conferencing equipment in all five of the Circuit Court branch courtrooms as well as in the Circuit Court Family Court Commissioner's courtroom will provide consistency of equipment between courtrooms and will provide a secure system that will protect the privacy of litigants while also providing due process; and

WHEREAS, the cost of equipping each of the six courtrooms is estimated to be around ~~\$35,000~~ ^{\$42,000} per courtroom for a total of approximately ~~\$210,000~~ ^{\$248,925}; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has allocated \$1.9 million from the Federal CARES act as part of the Routes to Recovery grant program to La Crosse County and a review of eligible costs indicates the cost of the video conferencing equipment would be reimbursable; and

WHEREAS, the CARES/Routes to Recovery grant program requires that money be expended by end of year in order to be submitted for reimbursement for COVID-19 response costs to protect public health and safety;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board authorizes the expenditure of up to ~~\$210,000~~ ^{\$248,925} for the purpose of equipping the six courtrooms (five Circuit Court branches and Family Court Commissioner) with video conferencing equipment; and

RE: APPROVING VIDEO CONFERENCING EQUIPMENT FOR COURTROOMS TO ENABLE IMPROVED SECURE REMOTE PROCEEDINGS DUE TO THE PANDEMIC

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these expenses will be submitted for reimbursement through the Routes To Recovery grant but in the event that the expenses are deemed ineligible will be paid for by the general fund.

FISCAL NOTE: The cost of the equipment will be submitted for reimbursement through the Routes to Recovery grant program. If the expense is not reimbursed by Routes to Recovery grant, the expense would be paid out of the general fund (requires 2/3 vote as an unbudgeted expenditure).

Date: 8/12/2020
Monica J. Kruse
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 8-18-2020
Jerrig Pawlic
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.		<u>SO</u>	
Fin. Director	<u>SRO</u>		
Corp. Counsel			
Board Chair	<u>MSK</u>		

Requested By: Steve O'Malley
Date Requested: August 5, 2020
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 20 Day of August, 2020

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 20th day of August 2020.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk