

WASHINGTON PARISH GOVERNMENT

909 Pearl Street Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

**WASHINGTON PARISH
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

803 Pearl Street Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

WASHINGTON PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT

805 Pearl Street Franklinton, Louisiana 70438

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER FOR WASHINGTON PARISH, LOUISIANA
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATIONS

Executive Summary

Emergency response, humanitarian relief, and related governmental activities in Washington Parish during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina have been severely hampered by the lack of a modern Emergency Operations / 9-1-1 / Multi-Agency Communications Center. The statement, often heard, "Without effective communications, all else fails", has been proven correct.

Therefore, Washington Parish requests funding of \$ 7,633,811 to build a state-of-the-art combined Emergency Operations / 9-1-1 / Multi-Agency Communications Center. This facility will provide an effective means for local emergency response and government officials to coordinate, monitor, and direct emergency response and related activities during an emergency.

The combined facility will also provide the ability to direct and control resources, automate processes and methodologies, assign and track tasks, and efficiently communicate real-time emergency management information. In addition, the facility will be designed and constructed to protect communication and data with needed redundancy, security and flexibility.

In order to provide emergency communication services in the event of natural or man made disasters, terrorism, bio-terrorism, hazardous materials, and other emergencies within Washington Parish and those which affect the greater New Orleans area, Louisiana Emergency Response Region 9 - Office of Public Health, and adjacent Mississippi counties; it is proposed to construct and equip a new, centrally located facility. It will provide coordinated electronic, telephone, satellite and radio communications to, from, and between all law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, hospitals, and emergency management agencies within Washington Parish and the surrounding parishes and counties.

The proposed nine acre site is remotely located, thus providing a secure location for command and control support of regional emergencies, while being away from heavily

traveled interstate highways and metropolitan population centers. The proposed facility will become the primary Emergency Operations Center for Washington Parish and will have the capability of supporting multiple parishes, if needed. The present Washington Parish primary operations center on Bill Booty Road will become the alternate site.

The building will be constructed as a slab-on-grade system with an exterior skin comprised of Pre-cast Concrete panels supported by a steel structure. The wall panels will be modular in nature with an applied thin masonry veneer for aesthetic purposes. The panels will have an integral foam insulation allowing for the interior to be coated with a textured coating to achieve a finished look. There will be a flat roof system supported by steel trusses. There will be no interior bearing walls, only support columns. This will allow for any future modifications. There will be a Suspended Acoustical Ceiling System in the majority of spaces. There will be no roof top equipment.

The building construction method will facilitate it being structurally resistive to storms, fire, and attacks of a terrorist nature. It inherently will have less of a maintenance impact on its occupants. In addition, the building's longevity is greatly increased due to the construction techniques being used.

An Emergency Operations Center has inherent requirements which dictate design standards and functional procedures that are particular to this facility type. They include the following:

- A. Multiple Use Spaces within the Building Envelope
- B. High Security Levels
- C. Structurally Resistant to Storms, Attacks, Fire, etc.
- D. Higher Levels of Technological Equipment
- E. Self-Sufficient Systems

During times of normal operations, parish wide agencies including law enforcement, fire, and EMS will utilize the facilities for their dispatch functions. All incoming 9-1-1 calls from the parish will be answered at this facility. The facility will be available for planning and training functions for all agencies and volunteer groups including ARES, RACES, and the Citizen Corps.

Congressional hearings have established that given the present threats to homeland security, certain communication related projects, which establish and enhance inter-state, cross jurisdictional and cross agency communications, should be supported by the federal government.

With your support, we will be capable of effectively and efficiently responding to a broad range of natural and manmade hazards and threats, thus minimizing the loss of life, injuries, and damage to property, while continuing essential government functions without interruption.

The appropriations request for this project is \$ 7,633,811.

Statement of Need

Washington Parish, a rural parish (County) in Southeast Louisiana (Location: 30.85202 N, 90.04154 W) encompassing 669.6 square miles with a population of 43,185 (1990 Census), serves as the coordinating parish for a five parish emergency response region, as well as, an evacuation destination for metropolitan New Orleans and Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemine, and St. Bernard parishes.

In a pre-Katrina consulting report concerning the Parish's emergency response system, Paul D. Linnee, ENP, of GeoComm Corporation, and Past President of the Minnesota Chapter of NENA (National Emergency Number Association) stated, "In our rather wide experience base in jurisdictions of a population and situation similar to Washington Parish, we must say we were somewhat surprised with the relative lack of shared infrastructure improvements".

Mr. Linnee went on to state, "When we reference shared infrastructure we speak of shared computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems, shared records system platforms, shared radio systems, GIS mapping systems and closely coordinated (electronically) E911 telephone systems and networks. At present, these systems in Washington Parish are either totally lacking or relatively isolated with little operational commonality between the various agencies. Operational and some technical deficiencies in the radio infrastructure threaten the safety of public safety responders, especially Fire and EMS.

He also said, "With all three PSAP's (Public Service Answering Points) involved in EMS (Emergency Medical Service) response assignments without any coordination between PSAP's, there is apparently a current inability to effectively coordinate their response in the present system and process. This is a liability risk and may occasionally delay the response of ambulances to emergencies. There is also a serious deficiency during times of major emergencies involving multi-agency response during times of severe weather, which is characteristic of the area. This will place citizen safety at risk." Unfortunately for the citizens of Washington Parish, this conclusion has been proven correct by recent events precipitated by Hurricane Katrina.

The parish is currently unable to provide adequate command and control, and emergency communication services in the event of natural or man made disasters, as well as regional or localized emergencies. Our emergency operations center is now located in a metal building, which also serves as a fire station. This construction makes it extremely vulnerable to many risks

including our annual threat from hurricanes. The roof of the present building was breached during hurricane Katrina causing an interruption of services during the storm.

The location of the current Emergency Operations Center facility places it at risk from multiple fixed facilities within three miles which handle hazardous materials. Our location on a small piece of property leaves the building susceptible to the dangers of falling trees from our neighbors' property. The operations room is hard to secure as it has two means of egress which open directly to the exterior of the building. The very nature of the existing structure, also serving as the headquarters of a combination paid/volunteer fire department, makes it difficult to control the types and numbers of persons who are present during times of activation. Lastly, present LAN and WAN systems have no firewall security and are inappropriately sized for parish wide communications needs. While basic generation capacity is available at the current facility, automatic switching capabilities are not present to preserve communications, data and LAN/WAN capabilities.

In the event of natural or man made disasters in the greater New Orleans area, Washington Parish would be required to furnish emergency services for many of the 250,000 expected evacuees as they move through the parish seeking safety and shelter. In order to provide such services, communications (between the emergency agencies, the general public and elected officials; between the individual emergency agencies; and between the individual agencies and their personnel) require improvements to existing equipment and personnel capabilities.

Project Description

We intend to build a 20,032 sq. ft. state-of-the-art combined Emergency Operations / 9-1-1 / Multi-Agency Communications Center on an 9 acre site. This site, which is in the geographic center of Washington Parish, is an ideal remote location that allows for the construction of a secure facility. Its location is a minimum of 10 miles away from the threat of all fixed facilities handling hazardous materials. The size of the new site will allow for the clearing of all lay down hazards, the establishment of security barriers, adequate parking, equipment staging, and a helicopter landing zone.

The structure will house offices for the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Communications District, as well as, a large emergency operations room, and dispatch facilities for all emergency services in the parish. There will be space provided for conference rooms, media areas, kitchen, sleeping quarters, and showers.

Incident command capabilities will be provided to improve both single and multi-agency response to emergencies. This emergency operations center will be equipped with the latest in virtual technology to provide the following capabilities:

- **Communication and intelligence** — to effectively receive and transmit information via uhf and vhf radio, vhf and hf amateur radio, telephone, cell phone, satellite phone, or data links with

all components of the parish and state systems. All agency contact information will be electronically available to all incident personnel.

- **Command and control** — to provide the functions necessary to put multiple response and recovery plans into action throughout the parish utilizing accurate, real-time response information, which, if desired, can be accessed by remote web based computers, on a need to know basis.

Mapping software will allow emergency management personnel to electronically plot the location of responders and resources at or around an incident scene on a GPS (global positioning satellite) correct map via real time AVL (automatic vehicle location) data being received by the center.

In addition, data links will allow for real time computer aided dispatch (CAD) data to be maintained on all responding units. Tracking of equipment availability and assignments of fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical services will be instantly available to incident command personnel.

- **Coordination and documentation** — to organize all of the steps taken to respond to an event and create a electronic data base, including time stamped records of those actions

- **Automated checklists** — to ensure that response and recovery is complete for all emergency response functions by the use of real time electronic information combined with electronic pre-plans, which are specific to emergencies on both a micro (specific location) level and a macro (wide area) level. Electronic status information includes: (a) Significant Events, (b) Task Assignments, (c) Response Forces, (d) Personnel, (e) Logistics, (f) Media, (g) Meteorological, (h) Incident Staff, (i) Media Inquiry, and (J) Press Release.

- **Alert notifications** — to electronically sort and distribute messages so emergency response managers can track and log multiple and varied notifications with accurate time stamps.

- **Media management** — to inform the media, with the use of accurate data, about the progress of an emergency and to coordinate the distribution of information to the citizens of the area by the use of the telephone, radio, television, and / or the internet.

Presently, the parish has three emergency public service answering and dispatch points: Washington Parish Sheriff's Office, Franklinton Police Department, and Bogalusa Police Department. Each answering point is staffed by the respective agency's personnel. All three agencies are widely dispersed within the parish. In addition, twelve fire departments and two EMS providers depend on dispatch information from these agencies.

The proposed project will combine all emergency and 9-1-1 answering and dispatch points in the new, centrally located facility, to provide coordinated communications to and from all law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and emergency management agencies within Washington Parish and surrounding parishes and counties during times of emergencies.

WASHINGTON PARISH GOVERNMENT
WASHINGTON PARISH OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
WASHINGTON PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
 Emergency Operations Center for Washington Parish
 Request For Appropriations
 11/3/2007
 Page 6

All emergency calls will be received at the proposed communications center, from which all fire, law enforcement, and emergency medical service radio dispatches will emanate. Special equipment will allow for intra-agency communications on all levels of response, local, state, and federal.

Budget

Building (20,032 sq ft)	\$ 3,702,759	
Additional Site Related Line Items	<u>\$ 650,000</u>	
Total (Building and Site)		\$ 4,352,759
Equipment	\$ 2,460,500	
Contingencies	\$ 435,276	
Professional Services - Architectural, Engineering, Legal, and Project Management	\$ 435,276	
Land	<u>\$75,000</u>	
Total (Equip., Conting., Services, Land)		<u>\$ 3,406,052</u>
Total Project		\$7,758,811
Less Local Funds, Land	(\$75,000)	
Less Local Funds, National Guard Site Work	(\$50,000)	
Total Local Funds		<u>\$ 125,000</u>
Total Funding Requested		\$ 7,633,811

Project Benefits

The benefits of the proposed state-of-the-art emergency operations command center and consolidated communications center include the ability to establish and maintain seamless electronic, telephone, and radio communications to, from, and between all law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and emergency management agencies within Washington Parish and surrounding parishes and Mississippi counties in both localized and wide spread natural or man made disasters and localized emergencies.

The emergency management and response related improvements inherent to this project will serve as a foundation for economic development in the area. The ability to attract investment by new businesses is, in many ways, tied to the ability of local government to respond to natural and man made disasters. A perceived weakness in this area undercuts the future economic development in Washington Parish.

Job creation in Washington Parish and the surrounding area will be enhanced by the proposed emergency operations command center and consolidated communications center. In addition to indirect enhancement, the center itself will employ nine 9-1-1 call takers not currently being utilized and will provide workspace for two emergency management personnel to assist the current Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Response.

From a specific emergency response viewpoint the new center will have the following benefits to the citizens of the area:

- Faster and better coordinated emergency responses by all agencies.
- Ability of dispatchers to locate where the emergency is, and whether it is called in by land telephone, wireless cell phone, or VoIP phone by the use of digital mapping.
- Emergency Medical Dispatch system to guide the caller in performing life-saving first aid prior to ambulance arrival.
- Information concerning residence or business layout and special medical needs of residents stored on computer for fire department or EMS use if requested by owner.
- Ability to utilize state of the art communications and dispatch equipment and be able to communicate with “anybody, anywhere” in the parish.
- Ability to know what resources are responding to what emergencies throughout the parish and on a real-time GIS basis where those resources are.
- Ability to exert command and control over the entire parish wide emergency response system.

In addition, the command center will bring the following micro level capabilities to bear on any emergency for which it is activated:

- Incident tracking, logging and reporting
- Automated SOP checklists and plans
- Resource management (with full database functionality)
- Central command and control
- Messaging and communications function with tracking
- Documentation of response actions
- Contact lists
- Internet, intranet, and wireless capabilities
- Radio, cellular and satellite capabilities
- Participation by all agencies even from remote locations if necessary

- Automated journaling
- Access to plans and data
- Mapping
- Linking capability to access Internet sources for weather and event intelligence
- Hand-held compatibility and capability to access the center from all locations in the Parish
- System which is fully configurable and scalable to the incident size
- Compatible with existing infrastructure, databases, software and e-mail

Organizational Information

The Parish of Washington is a local Government subdivision, which operates under a Home Rule Charter. The plan of Government provided by this Home Rule Charter shall be known as the “President-Council” form of Government. It shall consist of an elected Council, known as the Washington Parish Council and constitute the legislative Branch of the Government and an elected President who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and head of the Executive Branch.

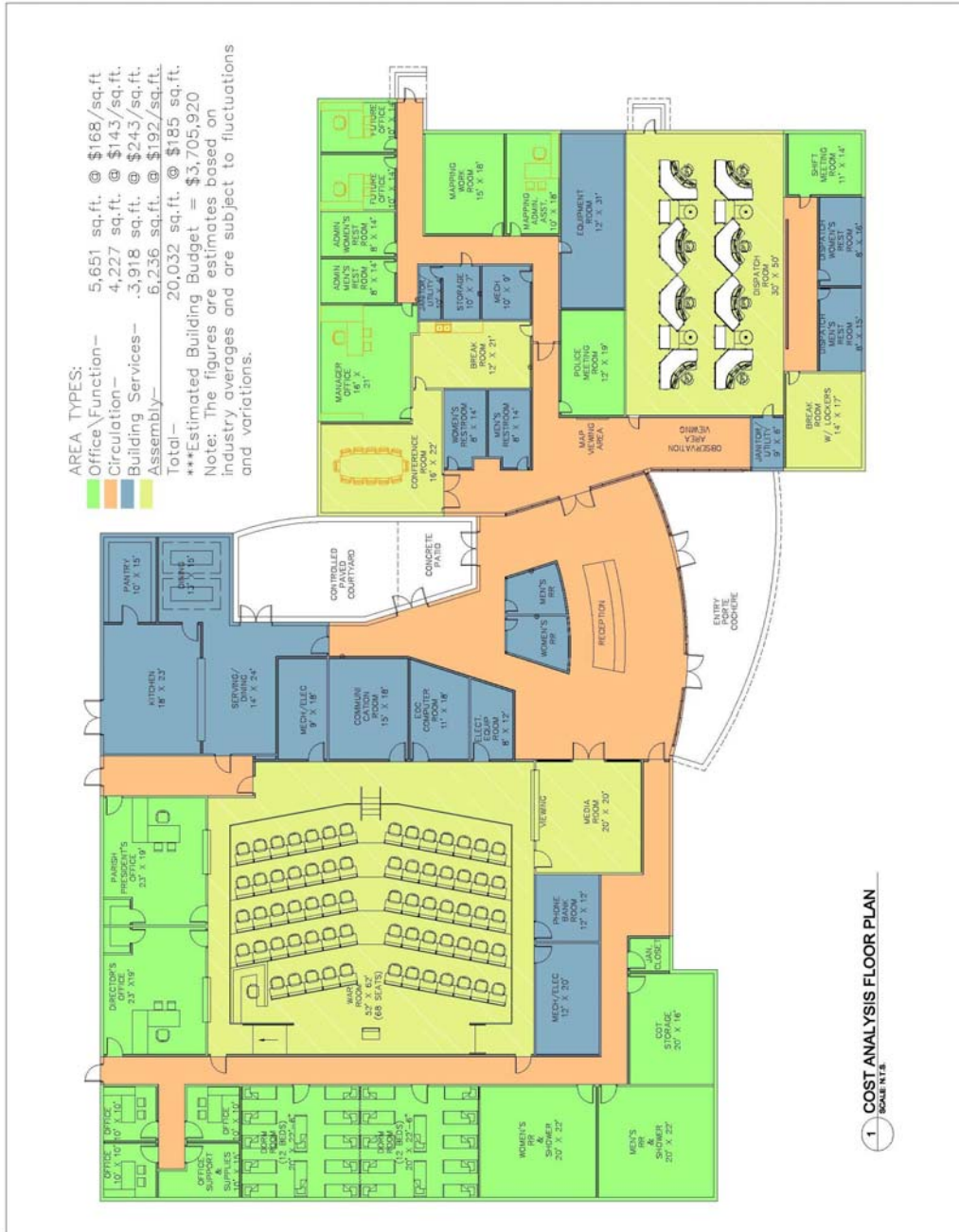
The Washington Parish Office Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness formed by Washington Parish government in 1993, is responsible for the management of all area emergencies including those related to weather, hazardous materials and terrorism. It is run under the supervision of the parish president, with direct control in the hands of an appointed Director. The Washington Parish organization is affiliated with the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

The Washington Parish Communications District was created by the Washington Parish Government on May 17, 1988, under the provisions authorized by Louisiana Revised Statute 33:9101-9106, and is a component unit of the Washington Parish Government. The purpose of the district is to establish and manage operations of an emergency communications system in Washington Parish. The district is governed by a seven member board appointed by the parish government.

Conclusion

Recent events, which include both natural or man made disasters and localized emergencies, have vividly shown the need for seamless electronic, telephone, and radio communications to, from, and between all law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, and emergency management agencies, the public, and elected officials to minimize loss of life and property and maximize public safety. Approval of this appropriations request will help insure that such is the case for the citizens of Washington Parish, Louisiana Emergency Response Region 9, and surrounding Mississippi counties.

BUILDING LAYOUT AND AREA TYPES



CODES AND STANDARDS TO BE APPLIED TO THIS PROJECT

CODES and STANDARDS

The following Codes and Standards will be applied during the development of the project phases.

- 2003 International Building Code (IBC)
- 2003 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code
- 1991 ADAAG - Accessibility Guidelines
- 2003 International Mechanical Code
- 2003 International Plumbing Code
- 2003 International Fuel Gas Code
- 2003 International Electric Code
- 2003 International Energy Code
- 2003 International Fire Code
- 2000 LA Plumbing Code
- U.S. Department of Energy Building Energy Code
- NFPA 1 – Uniform Fire Code
- NFPA 10 – Fire Extinguishers
- NFPA54 – Natural Fuel Gas
- NFPA 58 – Liquefied Petroleum Gas LPG
- NFPA 70 – National Electric Code
- NFPA 72 – Fire Alarm Systems
- NFPA 77 – Static Electricity
- NFPA 80 – Fire Doors and Windows
- NFPA 80A – Protection of Buildings from Exterior Fire Exposures
- NFPA 92A – Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences
- NFPA 96 – Hood and Exhaust Systems in Commercial Kitchens
- NFPA 110 – Emergency and Standby Power Systems
- NFPA 111 – Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems
- NFPA 115 – Laser Fire Protection
- NFPA 220 – Types of Building Construction
- NFPA 703 – Fire-Retardant Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials
- NFPA 780 – Installation of Lightning Protection Systems
- NFPA 1221 – Installation, Maintenance, and Use of Emergency Communications Systems
- ANSI Standards

WASHINGTON PARISH GOVERNMENT
WASHINGTON PARISH OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
WASHINGTON PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
 Emergency Operations Center for Washington Parish
 Request For Appropriations
 11/3/2007
 Page 11

DETAILED COST ESTIMATE (Page 1)

	Details	Sub Totals	Grand Totals
Building (20,032 sq ft)	\$185 per sq ft	\$3,702,759	
Additional Site Related Line Items			
Site Preparation	\$150,000		
Security Fencing	\$90,000		
Security Pass Card System	\$25,000		
Security Video Monitoring	\$25,000		
Waste Treatment	\$25,000		
Parking Lot	\$25,000		
Fueling Station	\$10,000		
Electrical Generation	\$250,000		
UPS System	\$50,000		
	\$650,000		
Total Additional Site Related Line Items		\$650,000	
Total Building and Site			\$4,352,759
Emergency Operations Center			
Incident Command Desks/Computers		\$300,000	
Incident Command Software		\$100,000	
Operations Related Equipment			
Projectors and Screens	\$27,000		
A-V Control Station and Audio	\$45,000		
Copier	\$15,000		
System Server	\$10,000		
Total Operations Related Equipment	\$97,000		
Administrative Equipment and Furniture			
EOC Admin	\$7,500		
EOC Director/PP	\$10,000		
Conference/Media	\$10,000		
Dining Area and Kitchen	\$28,500		
Total Administrative Equipment and Furniture	\$56,000		
Total Emergency Operations Center		\$553,000	

DETAILED COST ESTIMATE (Page 2)

9-1-1 Equipment

Radio Dispatch Equipment	\$617,000	
CAD System	\$240,000	
911 Dispatch Cubicles (8)	\$160,000	
Call Handling Software	\$160,000	
Mapping Software	\$100,000	
Controller	\$100,000	
Dispatch Computers	\$98,000	
Logging Recorder	\$30,000	
Administrative Equipment and Furniture	\$22,500	
Vehicle Location System Software	\$20,000	
Total 9-1-1 Equipment		\$1,547,500

Communications Infrastructure

Main Tower and Installation	\$260,000	
Ham Radio Towers, Antennae, Equipment	\$50,000	
SAT COM Platform, Antenna, Equipment	\$50,000	
Total Communications Infrastructure		\$360,000

Total Equipment		\$2,460,500
------------------------	--	--------------------

Other Items

Land	\$75,000	
Planning (Architectural, Engineering, Legal, Inspection)	\$435,276	
Contingencies	\$435,276	
Total Other Items		\$945,552

Total Project		\$7,758,811
Less, Land		-\$75,000
Less, National Guard Site Work		-\$50,000

Total New Funding		\$7,633,811
-------------------	--	--------------------

WASHINGTON PARISH GOVERNMENT
WASHINGTON PARISH OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
WASHINGTON PARISH COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT
 Emergency Operations Center for Washington Parish
 Request For Appropriations
 11/3/2007
 Page 13

PROJECT SPENDING PLAN

<u>Category</u>	<u>Jul-07</u> <u>Jan-08</u>	<u>Jan-08</u> <u>Jul-08</u>	<u>Jul-08</u> <u>Jan-09</u>	<u>Jan-09</u> <u>Jul-09</u>	<u>Jul-09</u> <u>Jan-10</u>	<u>Jan-10</u> <u>Jul-10</u>
A. Building	\$ -	\$ 740,552	\$ 1,110,828	\$ 1,110,828	\$740,552	
B. Additional Site	\$ -	\$ 273,000	\$ 136,000	\$ 24,100	\$216,900	
C. Equipment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$811,965	\$ 1,648,535
D. Other	\$ 358,875	\$ 23,055	\$ 18,270	\$ 18,270	\$ 14,355	\$ 2,451
<i>A/E/L/I Conting.</i>		\$ 87,000	\$ 87,000	\$ 130,500	\$ 87,000	\$ 43,776
E. Land	\$ 75,000					
Total by Period	\$ 433,875	\$ 1,123,607	\$ 1,352,098	\$ 1,283,698	\$1,870,772	\$ 1,694,762

<u>Category</u>	<u>Category</u> <u>Total</u>
A. Building	\$ 3,702,759
B. Additional Site	\$ 650,000
C. Equipment	\$ 2,460,500
D. Other	\$ 435,276
<i>A/E/L/I Conting.</i>	\$ 435,276
E. Land	\$ 75,000
Project Total	\$ 7,758,811