Overview

City Name	Project Name	Tech Area	Budget for Solution	City Point of Contact
Schenectady	Smart Remote Courts	Other Emerging Tech	$55,000	John Coluccio, JColuccio@Schenectadyny.gov

Project Briefs

Project 1: Smart Remote Courts

- **Project Scope. Please provide project narrative. Outline the problem that needs a solution and include high level timeline and end product. Be clear and succinct.**

City courts across the State schedule a start time of 9 am. Many times, 50 or more cases are scheduled to start at the same time, resulting in significant waiting time for individuals, families, friends, concerned parties, and lawyers. To support these long wait times through security, space, and staffing, courts are expending unnecessary capital, operational funds, and time. In addition, when an individual is arrested late at night, that person spends the night in jail and the arresting officer returns to court the following day for the arraignment, resulting in unnecessary time spent in jail for defendants who will be released after arraignment.

The Smart Remote Courts project will pilot a solution in City of Schenectady to schedule court appearances in appropriate time slots effectively and efficiently, as well as leverage videoconferencing technology to enable judges, law enforcement, and defendants to conduct an arraignment at night, allowing all parties to save time.

Smart Remote Courts will set up the protocol and security to use the solution delivered by the Technology Company, as well as potentially build consensus for this technology across the state.

The ideal solution (or solutions) will be piloted over 150 days, as follows:

- Requirements gathering (30 days): Day 1 – Day 30
- Hardware/software selection process (15 days): Day 31 – Day 45
- Implementation (60 days): Day 46 – Day 106
- Review and evaluation (30 days): Day 90 – Day 120
- Creating procedural guidelines (30 days): Day 120 – Day 150

- **Ideal Technology Solution**

The City of Schenectady is looking to leverage hardware and software technology to improve operational efficiency with the City's Office of Court Administration and its interface with the City Police Department. Ideally, the solution provided by the Technology Company would capture and analyze data. We can work with the vendor to determine where and how long to store collected data.

Anticipated metrics include:

- Time per court case to determine potential reductions.

- Court case costs with reduced in-person court appearances.
- Potential reduction of court officers due to reduced in-person caseloads.
- Increased efficiency of scheduling with videoconferencing vs. requiring all in-person court appearances with multiple arraignments scheduled for the same time slot.

In terms of specifics regarding the above metrics, we are seeking to reduce the amount of waiting and backlog that occurs for courts based on scheduling everyone at one time. This technology solution could ultimately reduce the number of guards the court systems require, as well as potentially reduce the number of courts per jurisdiction when multiples exist. Additionally, using videoconference equipment collects data on the number of uses and the amount of time for videoconferences. This information would be used to analyze the benefit ratio of the technology along with interviews of court officials to understand concerns and limitations.

- **Required Cybersecurity and Privacy Standards**

Any technology solution must align with the City of Schenectady's cybersecurity and privacy policies. The City of Schenectady follows guidelines set forth by the NYS Department of Criminal Justice for data security. The City also undergoes yearly audits that include the review of individual permissions by each user of our networked software. It should be noted that security of this type of data is extremely important to the City. We will look to the chosen Technology Company to comply with all security and data privacy provisions required by HIPAA in the transmission of information.

- **Project Funding: $55,000**

We are expecting the project to cost roughly $115,000 to execute over 150 days. We are able to commit $40,000 to the project. ESD is granting $55,000. The City of Schenectady is looking for a contribution of approximately $20,000 from the relevant technology company either through in-kind services or cash match to pilot its solution.

- **Other Considerations & Helpful Info**

For more information about Schenectady's smart city projects, see https://www.cityofschenectady.com/505/Smart-City-Project.