



Benton County plans to construct a modern government center to meet the needs of a growing county. The existing government center consists of the original 1901 courthouse (yellow brick structure on the right below), with additions built in the 1970s and 1980s. Studies by the County's architect and construction manager show that a new government center is not substantially more expensive to construct than renovating and expanding the existing government center. The 1901 courthouse poses the greatest challenges, where costly renovations are needed to correct accessibility issues, navigate thick concrete and granite walls and repair a decaying brick exterior. Even with renovations, no additional space would be created in the 1901 courthouse.



The County purchased land in the City of Foley just across the street from its government center for this project. This vacant lot had been the site of the Foley High School. No land condemnation or house removal was required for this purchase.



**Benefits of a new Government Center (rendering left) include:**

- Community room for large group gatherings
  - A customer-oriented design making offices easy to find
  - Dedicated space and drive-through for DMV
  - The latest technology for all meeting rooms
  - Larger County Board room
  - Room for growth
- A single public entrance designed to allow security screening
  - Separate staff and public areas

Benton County plans to finance the project primarily with General Obligation debt. Current estimated project cost is \$29.7 million. Relief from the state sales tax on construction materials would save County taxpayers approximately \$320,000.

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