

**City of Alexandria, Virginia**  
**FY 2027 Proposed Operating Budget & CIP**  
**Budget Questions & Answers**

**April 6, 2026**

**Question:**

What would be needed to improve technology including providing access at the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center and Sheltercare program?

**Response:**

Technology Improvements Needed at NVJDC to Support Virtual Hearings

1. Dedicated Virtual Courtroom Infrastructure
  - a. To ensure reliable and legally sound virtual hearings, the onsite hearing room requires:
    - i. High-definition court-grade video conferencing systems (fixed cameras with wide-angle and zoom capability)
    - ii. Professional courtroom audio systems (ceiling microphones, echo cancellation, and assistive listening compatibility)
    - iii. Large display monitors for clear viewing of judges, attorneys, and clients Secure digital evidence presentation capability (document cameras, screen-sharing, evidence display)
    - iv. Redundant connectivity to prevent hearing disruptions.
2. Secure Network & Bandwidth Enhancements
  - a. Reliable virtual court access requires:
    - i. Expanded broadband capacity with priority routing for court functions
    - ii. Dedicated, secure network segmentation for judicial proceedings
    - iii. End-to-end encrypted communications aligned with court and CJIS requirements
    - iv. Redundant network failover capability to maintain uninterrupted hearings
3. Facility-Wide Technology Access Improvements
  - a. To support equitable access and operational efficiency:
    - i. Upgraded Wi-Fi and wired connectivity across housing units and program spaces
    - ii. Secure digital communication platforms for legal counsel meetings
    - iii. Technology access points for education, treatment programming, and family engagement
    - iv. Integration with case management and court scheduling systems
4. Security, Privacy & Compliance Measures
  - a. Technology modernization must include:
    - i. Controlled access systems and monitoring to maintain confidentiality of proceedings
    - ii. Digital recording and archiving capability consistent with court rules
    - iii. Cybersecurity upgrades to protect juvenile records and sensitive information.

- iv. Compliance with state and federal privacy standards and juvenile justice confidentiality laws.
5. Staff Training & Operational Integration
  - a. Successful implementation requires:
    - i. Training for staff on courtroom protocols including technology operation and troubleshooting
    - ii. Standard operating procedures for virtual hearings and digital evidence handling
    - iii. Technical support resources and service agreements to maintain system reliability
6. Future-Ready Technology Planning
  - a. To ensure sustainability and adaptability:
    - i. Scalable infrastructure to accommodate increased virtual court utilization
    - ii. Interoperability with regional courts and state justice systems
    - iii. Capacity for hybrid proceedings and emerging digital justice tools

The NVJDC anticipates that the cost of these improvements will go as follows:

1. Structured Cabling (CAT6 Installation) – \$1,500 – \$3,500
  - a. 2–4 CAT6 drops, wall plates, patch panel, and cable management. Utilize existing infrastructure where possible.
2. Network Equipment – \$500 – \$1,200
  - a. 8–16 port switch, UPS battery backup, patch cables. Keep configuration simple and reliable.
3. Display & Mounting – \$800 – \$2,000
  - a. 55–65 inch display, wall mount, optional second monitor for improved visibility.
4. Furniture / Seating – \$1,000 – \$3,000
  - a. Table and 3–5 chairs suitable for courtroom setting. Reuse existing furniture when possible.
5. Audio Enhancements – \$500 – \$1,500
  - a. Supplemental microphone or speaker system if needed. Polycom may suffice depending on room acoustics.
6. Power & Electrical – \$300 – \$1,000
  - a. Surge protection, potential outlet additions, and cable concealment.
7. Installation / Labor – \$2,000 – \$4,000
  - a. Local contractor for cabling, mounting, and system setup.

Estimated Total Cost

- Cabling \$1,500 – \$3,500
- Network Equipment \$500 – \$1,200
- Display \$800 – \$2,000
- Furniture \$1,000 – \$3,000

- Audio \$500 – \$1,500
- Electrical \$300 – \$1,000
- Labor \$2,000 – \$4,000

TOTAL: \$6,600 – \$16,200

At the end of FY 2025, NVJDC held \$5.0 million in reserve for capital facilities needs and \$1.3 million for operating accounts.