

Position Paper for Agenda Item

To: Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

From: Bill Trufant, Facilities Director

Date: March 3, 2026

Subject: Cumberland County Courthouse Fire Alarm Design Services

Requested Action

Award the design services for the Fire Alarm Replacement at the Cumberland County Courthouse to **Jensen Hughes Inc.**

Background and Purpose of Request

The Cumberland County Courthouse's Fire Alarm (FA) system has been online and working since building inception in 1993. Since then, and most recently, when repairs are needed to maintain operation of the system, the parts are becoming more and more obsolete. In recent years we have had to wait long periods of times due to product availability, and most times these parts need to be refurbished or made to order.

This service was advertised publicly and the County received two (2) proposals from qualified engineering firms. Both firms were interviewed internally by Facilities staff members who will be working directly on the project.

These firms were **Jensen Hughes Inc.**, and **Harriman**. During the interview process, both firms show experience with designing complex FA systems in a multitude of complex facilities.

Jensen Hughes Inc. stood out in this process as they showed, and provided, case studies in designing these systems in high security buildings/active judicial centers & courthouses. They also demonstrated that during the Construction Administration (CA) phase, creating an environment where the building will continue to operate while work is being completed was extremely desirable. They showed project timelines which included design/vendor selection/CA/commissioning schedules.

Harriman provided case studies of high-rise dormitories with mass evacuation system integration, as well as new construction designs at an EMS/911 center. They did provide timelines of how they anticipated the project being delivered but didn't go too far in depth on the schedule. They also didn't provide the team with case studies that showed experience working in a high security/active judicial center & courthouses.

Design fees for the project are:

Harriman - \$69,285

Jensen Hughes, Inc. - \$91,500

We strongly feel due to overall experience with high security centers, along with active judicial style buildings, **Jensen Hughes Inc.** is the most qualified firm to accomplish this service for the County.

Funding Amount and Source

This design service will be funded through the 2026/2027 Obligation Bond. The requested amount of award is \$91,500

Effective Date

March 16, 2026

Attachments

- Jensen Hughes, Inc. Bid
- Harriman Bid
- Bid Score sheet