(AGO) ATTORNEY GENERAL

Administrative Building Fund	$13,188,000

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING FUND (026)

CAP-715	Construct/Renovate Richfield Laboratory (Summit)	New Construction	$10,944,375

These funds will be used to construct a new Bureau of Criminal Identification & Investigation (BCII) facility in Richfield, Ohio. The project includes the construction of new DNA and forensic laboratories in order to support northeastern Ohio crime analysis needs and to pursue laboratory accreditation by the American Society of Crime Lab Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board. Currently, BCII is using a facility that was not designed nor constructed as a laboratory, and has inadequate heating, ventilation, electric, air conditioning, and storage space to meet demands. The Richfield laboratory is the largest of BCII's branch laboratories, and serves approximately fifty percent of the state's population. Am. H.B. 748 of the 121st General Assembly provided a $259,851 appropriation in order to provide the design planning, state architect fees, and site preparation for expansion and renovation of the existing facility. At that time, expansion and renovation was estimated at approximately $2.6 million. It appears that those plans to expand and renovate the existing facility have been expanded to cover the construction of a new facility, with rising costs.

The project will include the following improvements over the existing facility:

- Expanded fingerprint processing areas and adequate ventilation in those sections;
- Larger areas for the processing of firearms evidence;
- Additional work space, proper ventilation, and temperature control for the chemistry section;
- Construction of new evidence receiving areas;
- Relocation and soundproofing of polygraph facilities, an observation room, and separate entry for suspects;
- An area for firearm test firing separate from existing space in the BCII garage.

CAP-717	HVAC Improvements/Renovations - OPOTA (Madison)	Renovation/ Replacement	$2,003,625

These funds will be used to upgrade the current Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA) facility with a new HVAC system. The original HVAC system dates from the time the facility was built, in 1976, and continued use of this system has resulted in mildew and mold problems. This project allows for the general, mechanical and electrical construction of a new HVAC system for OPOTA, which offers more than 325 training programs for law enforcement officers in Ohio.

CAP-718	Situation Training Facility (Madison)	New Construction	$240,000

These funds will be used to construct a situational training facility, which will contain a classroom and collapsible walls. This will permit configuration of the building to simulate a variety of structures and situations that would facilitate training in evidence gathering, tactical entry and search, hostage response, domestic dispute resolution, and jail cell extraction.

AGO's budget request indicates that a total of $450,000 is needed to construct this facility, and that the remaining $210,000 will come from State Special Revenue Fund 177, line item 055-626, Victims Assistance Programs. These moneys are transferred from the Court of Claims' Victims of Crime Fund, and are to be used to provide financial aid to organizations that operate crime victim assistance programs. Under O.R.C. 109.91, the State Victims Assistance Advisory Committee, which consists of a chairperson appointed by the Attorney General, four ex officio members, and fifteen criminal justice professionals appointed by the Attorney General, provide recommendations to AGO's Crime Victims Assistance office, the victim assistance programs that should be considered for the receipt of these funds.