

## ARPA Audio-Visual Equipment Modernization Policy

On December 8, 2022, the ARPA Committee approved audio-visual equipment modernization in existing courtrooms as an eligible expenditure, subject to the following rules and procedures:

(a) Definitions:

(1) “Audio-visual equipment modernization” means the purchase and installation of fixed and movable equipment necessary to address audio-visual controls, video presentation, audio, video streaming, and video conferencing, including any of the following:

- (i) Control panels to control an audio-visual system, commonly installed at a judge’s bench and/or clerk’s desk;
- (ii) Displays for evidence presentation, control monitoring, and public access in a designated viewing area;
- (iii) Speakers mounted on desks, ceilings, walls, or other locations;
- (iv) Fixed and wireless microphones;
- (v) Fixed video cameras;
- (vi) An evidence presentation cart or station with document cameras and technology inputs;
- (vii) A court reporter interface to connect to courtroom audio and/or video;
- (viii) Assistive listening and assistive display devices;
- (ix) Related peripheral items, such as hardware mounts, power supplies, and networking hardware;
- (x) Design, engineering, and installation;
- (xi) Troubleshooting services for a fixed period after installation; and
- (xii) Other audio-visual equipment modernization costs approved by OPB and the Committee.

(2) “Existing courtroom” means a room that is:

- (i) Fully constructed and in use prior to the date of the award;
- (ii) Permanently dedicated to the primary purpose of conducting court proceedings; and
- (iii) Not a room or facility only temporarily used to conduct court proceedings.

(b) Audio-visual equipment modernization in **an existing courtroom** is an ARPA-eligible expenditure, on the condition that all the following documentation is submitted to the Committee for approval:

- (1) An ARPA Grant Application, as provided at <https://jcaoc.georgiacourts.gov/arpa/>;
- (2) A detailed justification letter stating that audio-visual equipment modernization expenditures are a necessary component of a response to court case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies;
- (3) A detailed summary of the project, including a complete project timeline;
- (4) A detailed proposal from a vendor, including an estimate of the cost of the project and all equipment to be installed; and
- (5) A revised Budget Form adding “Audio-visual equipment modernization” and the amount requested for such expenditures under the “ARPA-Eligible Administrative Expenses” category.

(c) Requests for proposals from vendors for audio-visual equipment modernization shall be subject to local competitive bidding requirements and procedures regarding the purchase of equipment, supplies, services, or other items with public funds.

(d) Per federal regulations and OPB requirements, audio-visual equipment modernization costs must be necessary, reasonable, and proportional to the objectively demonstrated need to

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respond to case backlogs caused by the pandemic, with a primary focus on cases involving serious violent felonies. To determine the reasonableness of audio-visual modernization costs, consideration must be given to market prices for comparable goods or services for the geographic area where the courtroom is located, as provided in 2 CFR § 200.404 (c).

(e) The following expenditures remain prohibited:

(1) Permanent adaptations to existing facilities unrelated to audio-visual equipment modernization; and

(2) Construction of a new courtroom or new court facility, including the cost of audio-visual equipment for a new courtroom or new facility.

(f) ARPA grant recipients will be reimbursed for audio-visual equipment modernization costs as eligible expenditures are incurred and reported with adequate documentation to AOC. **No advances or retroactive payments are authorized.**

(g) Applicants may be reimbursed for costs incurred on an audio-visual equipment modernization project that is currently in progress if the entire audio-visual equipment modernization project is approved by the Committee, as provided in (b), subject to the following:

(1) Reimbursement for an in-progress audio-visual equipment modernization project shall be limited to costs incurred on or after the date of award; and

(2) Audio-visual equipment modernization costs incurred prior to the date of award shall not be reimbursed.

(h) ARPA funds **are subject to recoupment** if used for impermissible purposes, as provided in 31 CFR § 35.10.