



FY25 CAPITAL BUDGET TESTIMONY

RONALD H. NOWACZYK, PRESIDENT OR AL DELIA, ACTING PRESIDENT

SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

Capital Budget SubCommittee

Sen. Craig J. Zucker, Chair

Tuesday, March ??, 2024

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

Capital Budget SubCommittee

Del. Ben Barnes, Chair

Wednesday, March ??, 2024



FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

Ronald Nowaczyk, President

Thank you for the opportunity to brief you on our capital projects. To begin, I would like to thank the Governor and the General Assembly for continued support of Frostburg State University. This capital funding enables improvements that add to our students’ experiences, enhances excellence and collaboration, improves our facilities and positively impacts the community.

FSU’S BUILDINGS AT A GLANCE

Academic Building	Year Constructed
Old Main	1902
Lowndes Hall	1950
Pullen Hall	1959
Gunter Hall	1960
Framptom Hall	1965
Dunkle Hall	1969
Fine Arts	1969
Ort Library	1976
PE Center	1978
Guild Center (remodeled)	1986
Performing Arts Center	1993
Compton Science Center	2003
Gira Center	2014
Education & Health Sciences	2023

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Frostburg State University is grateful for the \$10M Facilities Renewal investment made in the FY2023 Capital budget. The support provided by the Maryland Governor, USM Regents and the General Assembly has made an immediate impact on FSU, allowing us to embark on critical projects that have improved campus infrastructure. These projects have included the replacement of leaking roofs, outdated HVAC systems and improved lighting components.

However, despite these significant strides, our work is far from complete. The majority of FSU’s buildings were constructed between 1960 and 1980, and the mechanical systems within these structures have surpassed their expected lifespan. These outdated systems fail to meet current building efficiency requirements. Issues caused by older infrastructure have affected academic, research and residential properties. In some cases, the risk exists for longer-term disruptions.

The following projects are currently scheduled for replacement or improvements pending funding availability:



LOWNDES HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

The existing roof on Lowndes Hall is original to the building and dates back to the 1950s. The roof has developed leaks that have been patched repeatedly. Replacing the roof offers numerous benefits, including improved safety, energy efficiency and the avoidance of extensive water damage and structural weaknesses. Replacing the roof of Lowndes Hall will also improve building aesthetics and mitigate the need for frequent repairs.

- Schedule – Summer 2026
- Duration – 3 months
- Total project cost = \$800K

RENOVATIONS TO FINE ARTS

Proposed renovations to the Fine Arts building include a new roof, replacement windows, and building envelope repairs. Replacing the outdated roofing materials, installing modern windows and repairing building envelope components will allow the building to be more resilient to inclement weather conditions. The improvements will enhance the overall energy efficiency of the building, thus reducing the costs associated with heating and cooling.

- Roof replacement – \$1,500,000
- Repair and caulk masonry joints – \$250,000
- Replace windows – \$750,000
- Schedule – Summer 2026
- Duration – 3 months
- Total of renovations = \$2.5M



HVAC IMPROVEMENTS

HVAC improvements include a chiller for Compton Hall, repairs to the existing Cordts PE Center equipment and new VFD controls for Ort Library. The chiller in Compton Hall requires R22 refrigerant, which is no longer readily available for purchase. Installation of a new chiller will allow FSU to utilize a more environmentally friendly refrigerant that aligns with our sustainability goals, as well as ensures compliance with current regulations. Upgrading VFD controls will enhance the system performance and allow for better control over the HVAC operation, along with improving energy efficiency.

- Compton Chiller Replacement – \$800,000
- HVAC Repairs to Cordts PE Center – \$1,000,000
- Ort Library HVAC VFD & Control Replacement – \$3,000,000
- Schedule:
 - Compton – Fall 2026
 - PE bldg. – Summer 2027
 - Library – Fall 2027
- Duration – 18 months
- Total project cost = \$4.8M



HITCHINS WINDOW REPLACEMENT

This project will replace the windows of the Hitchins Administration Building. The existing windows are original to the buildings. Replacement windows will improve energy efficiency, reduce moisture infiltration and improve functionality. The Hitchins Administration Building window design is complete and needs to be procured.

- Schedule – Summer 2027
- Duration – 3 months
- Total project cost = \$1.0M

LOWNDES FIBER DUCT BANK REPLACEMENT

Replacing the fiber line duct bank is critical for ensuring the reliable and efficient operation of the communication infrastructure. The existing fiber line duct bank serves as the backbone of the network. The existing duct bank has deteriorated. Replacing the duct bank will modernize the infrastructure, improve network reliability and support the overall efficiency of the network.

- Schedule – Summer 2026
- Duration – 6 months
- Total project cost = \$900K



LOOKING FORWARD

Frostburg State University is continuing to work on several projects to benefit the university and the region, which are consistent with our Facilities Master Plan.



REGIONAL SCIENCE CENTER

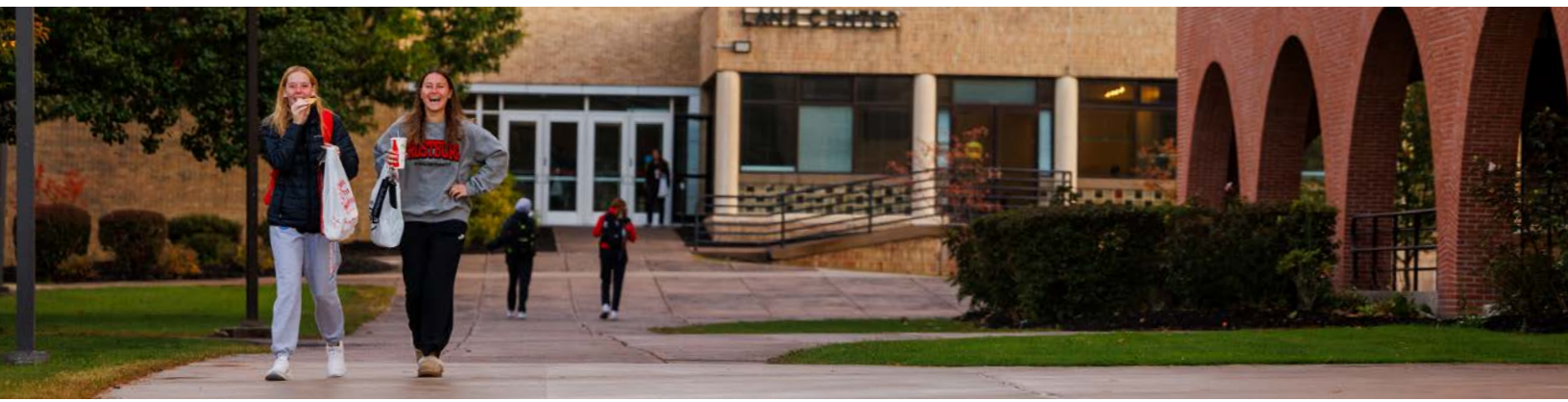
FSU is committed to the vision for the Regional Science Center and Challenger Learning Center in Frostburg. Originally planned for Main Street, the project is facing financial hurdles at that location that are very unlikely to be overcome. While we had anticipated the utilization of a building generously donated by the City of Frostburg, the funding shortfall has necessitated a reconsideration of that plan.

FSU is committed to making this project a reality. Alternative options including using available space on campus are currently being explored.

Despite the financial obstacles, FSU is confident that with continued support and determination, the Regional Science Center will become a reality. In addition to state funding, to date, we have received approximately \$1 million through philanthropy and an additional \$1.25 million in funds provided by the Appalachian Regional Commission and NASA.

We still expect to bring the Regional Science Center to Western Maryland to address a critical need in rural America – maintaining student interest in STEM areas – which is consistent with FSU's founding mission as a teacher's school.





CORDTS PE CENTER RENOVATIONS

FSU has recognized for several years the need to enhance its recreational and athletic offerings for students. While the university meets the needs of its NCAA sports (formerly at the DIII level and now DII), we have offered little to our general population of students. They often compete for recreational space with our student-athletes in our PE Center, which is over 40 years old. We also have survey data that reveals our student population is poorly represented by students who played high school sports, showing that our recreation facilities may be negatively impacting our student recruitment.

This project would provide for significant renovations to the Cordts Physical Education Center at FSU including the installation of air-conditioning, renovations to the swimming pool, expansion of fitness and wellness facilities and improvements to areas used for academic purposes. This project would also address other deferred maintenance issues and provide an updated facility to complement the new Education and Health Science Center and proposed Regional Recreation Center.

FRAMPTON HALL RENOVATIONS

In 2021 a revised Program I document was submitted that would alter the original concept of constructing a new building for the College of Business (now College of Business, Engineering and Computational & Mathematical Sciences) and would instead renovate Framptom Hall to serve FSU's business programs. The renovated Framptom Hall would house four academic departments: Accounting, Economics, Management and Marketing & Finance. The renovations would facilitate a high quality of teaching, learning, collaboration and exchange of ideas amongst faculty, staff and students in a modern and state-of-the-art environment.

Framptom Hall was built in 1965 as a library, and the interior of the building is open with minimal structural features to build around. Currently, our business classrooms and faculty offices are split between two aging buildings on opposite sides of the cam-



pus, both of which are shared with other colleges. In addition to hampering the sense of academic community necessary for active collaboration and collegial exchange, this circumstance hinders the development of business programs that are otherwise vibrant and keenly focused on institutional goals and growth.

This project will provide FSU with instructional and business community outreach facilities that can support the current and projected undergraduate and graduate programs, including accounting, business administration, data analytics, finance, human resource management, marketing, small business/entrepreneurship, business economics, public policy economics, quantitative economics and management (MBA), with a technology-based learning environment. A recently completed ARC-funded study on targeted industries for Western Maryland highlighted the opportunity for employment expansion in back-office financial and business operations. Our College of Business, Engineering and Computational & Mathematical Sciences is a major asset in recruiting and maintaining an expanded business-operations presence in Western Maryland.

THANK YOU

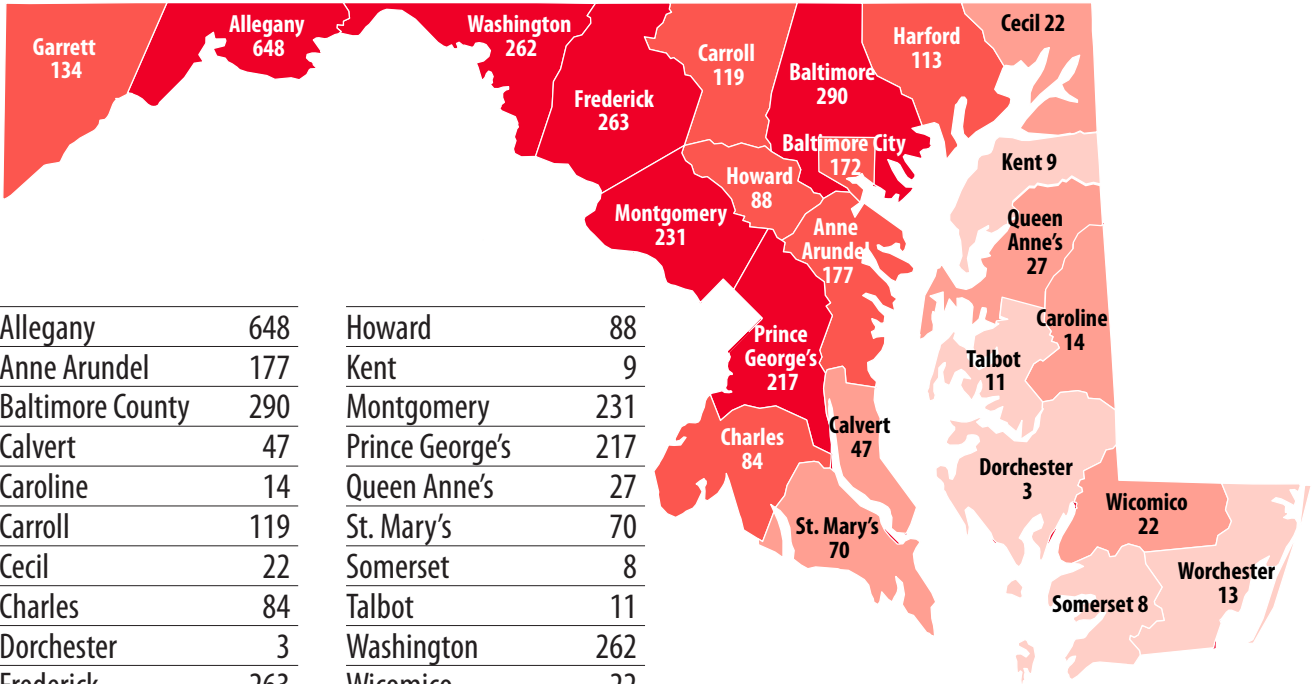
We are thankful for previous funding provided by the state. Through that funding, along with significant private donations, FSU completed the Adams/Wyche Multicultural Center in 2023. The building renovation was designed to be inclusive, historically significant and student-centered. It serves as home to the FSU Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and provides a meeting center for community and campus events.

The Education and Health Sciences Center opened for the Fall 2023 semester. Although progress was delayed due to supply chain issues coming out of the pandemic, we were thankful to welcome students, faculty and staff into this new state of the art center which now houses the departments of Education, Nursing and Kinesiology, as well as the campus medical and mental health facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I urge you to support the Governor's capital budget for Frostburg State University.

ADDITIONAL DATA

Student Enrollment by Maryland County Fall 2023



Allegany	648
Anne Arundel	177
Baltimore County	290
Calvert	47
Caroline	14
Carroll	119
Cecil	22
Charles	84
Dorchester	3
Frederick	263
Garrett	134
Harford	113

Howard	88
Kent	9
Montgomery	231
Prince George's	217
Queen Anne's	27
St. Mary's	70
Somerset	8
Talbot	11
Washington	262
Wicomico	22
Worcester	13
Baltimore City	172

75%

Maryland Residents

Maryland Residents 3,044

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