Board of Public Building Bond funds have been the only state appropriated capital improvements funding to Jefferson College over the last decade.
Jefferson College serves Jefferson County residents with its main campus in Hillsboro and additional campuses in Arnold and High Ridge. Approximately 4,500 students attend the college. Forty-seven percent (2,108) of students attend full-time, and 53 percent (2,382) attend part-time. Approximately 560 students who attend Jefferson College use the state’s A+ scholarship program.

Capital Improvement & Facilities History

Since 1986, the only state funding Jefferson College has received for capital improvements was $2.1 million of Board of Public Building bonds in fiscal year 2016. The college used this funding to address multiple deferred maintenance issues. Jefferson College demolished and conducted a major upgrade of its library, which is used by students, faculty, and the community at large. The college also used bond funds to replace single pane windows with double pane, low energy glass on all of their buildings.

Facility Challenges

Jefferson College consists of nine Education & General Buildings and seven Auxiliary Buildings with 475,544 gross square feet (GSF). It is located southwest of St. Louis on 400 acres at the foot hills of the Ozark Mountains. Though the abundance of green space and the beauty of the rolling hills allows for a serene and picturesque environment, it creates challenges regarding ADA accessibility. New ramps and crosswalks continue to advance and are a priority that is continuously evaluated in conjunction with student input. The campus has an abundance of handicap parking located on the level areas adjacent to the 12 buildings that accommodate the overall campus.

The buildings on the campus have a mid-century design that continues to compliment any new renovation that allows for an attractive modern look. Though the exterior is aesthetically attractive, the internal design and mechanics of the buildings are outdated, poorly designed, non-energy-efficient, and require continuous maintenance. The college has over $1 million in deferred maintenance. The library was originally constructed in 1967. The interior was completely demoed and redesigned, and is now a beautiful state-of-the-art facility. The original mid-century architecture of the building in conjunction with updated architectural features has brought new life to a 50-year-old library that now looks brand new. The same level of renovation is a goal for the other buildings on campus.
Jefferson College has identified the following as the college’s top two priorities for the future. The total state request for these projects is approximately $2 million.

1. Fire Safety & Fiber Optic Improvement/Campus Upgrade

This project consists of installing fiber optic cables between buildings to support and centralize the fire safety system, campus police video surveillance system, and campus emergency alert system. The fiber optic cables will update the over 50-year-old phone lines currently used for Jefferson College’s communications infrastructure that are no longer sustainable or reliable and that prohibit the college’s state-of-the-art fire safety system from working properly. Installing new fiber optic cables will ensure life safety compliance for students, faculty, staff, and others in the community who use the Jefferson College campus.

The new cables will also consolidate existing alert systems at a central location, allowing for the notification of the proper authorities in a timely and reliable way.

Finally, the installation of fiber optic cables will enable the college to benefit from current data technology.

2. Veterinary Technology Program Addition & Renovation

This project consists of constructing a new 4,325 square foot building connected to the college’s existing Vet Tech facility and renovating the current facility.

The new facility will be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated using environmentally minded products and materials, and will create a healthy place for students, faculty, and pet owners in the community who rely on the college’s vet tech program for the health and well-being of their pets. By using environmentally responsible materials and technology, the college will benefit from lower energy and operational costs over the life of the building.

Currently housed in two separate buildings on the Hillsboro campus, remodeling the existing facility and constructing a new, attached facility will create a single, centralized location to house the vet tech program. This building will be equipped with state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, surgery facilities, kennels, and offices. The new facility will also allow the college to add two full-size classrooms and provide for future expansion of the vet tech program to meet the growing needs of the community.