The state has appropriated $4.3 million in capital improvements funding to Ozarks Technical Community College over the last decade, but just over $1 million, or approximately 23%, has been restricted.
The main campus of Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) is located in Springfield. The college also has campuses in Hollister and Ozark, and education centers in Lebanon and Waynesville. The college's nine-county service area serves approximately 13,300 students.

**Capital Improvement & Facilities History**

OTC received $3.3 million Board of Public Building bond funds in fiscal year 2016 to complete repair and renovation projects. With these funds, the college completed several projects including replacement of the heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment; exterior repairs; and roof replacements at multiple buildings. In fiscal year 2017, $1 million was appropriated and subsequently restricted for site development of a proposed new Republic Education Center that would have included seven classrooms, four computer labs, two science labs, a lab prep room, a testing center, student services, administrative/faculty offices, and a common area for student interaction and studying. No other capital improvements funding has been appropriated to the college in the last ten years.

**Facility Challenges**

OTC consists of 14 Education & General Buildings and nine Auxiliary Buildings with 786,043 gross square feet (GSF). However, over 50% percent of the E&G buildings on the OTC Springfield campus have not had a major renovation in over 18 years. Currently, the campus has over $2.28 million in facilities needs including over $210,000 in deferred maintenance. A significant portion of the deferred maintenance is in HVAC replacement, exterior door replacement and elevator renovations.
Capital Priorities

Ozarks Technical Community College has identified the following as the college’s top two capital priorities for the future. The total state request for these projects is approximately $11 million.

1. Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing & Technology

Missouri is currently lagging behind the midwest region on key economic and workforce development metrics. Regional comparisons reveal that Missouri is not a regional leader in any particular industry, making employer attraction within target industries difficult. The proposed Center of Excellence for Advanced Manufacturing & Technology will enable the state to improve workforce development in select industries, supporting existing employers and helping to attract new ones.

The facility will be designed to (1) create an employment pipeline that will provide targeted, short-term training that will then allow an individual to begin a career making high wages and serve as a foundation for future development; (2) develop an adaptable labor market through alternative credential programs closely tailored to high-demand workforce needs and provide educational experiences aligned with on-the-job duties; (3) encourage businesses to adopt technology more quickly to provide employers with customizable training space to test new technology and line procedures without affecting production; and build regional cooperation that leverages regional strengths. This model has worked elsewhere, such as North Dakota, where every dollar invested into the center of excellence has produced $12 of value. Similar initiatives are underway in Tennessee and North Carolina.

The OTC Center of Excellence will be approximately 60,000 square feet and housed on the Springfield campus and will focus on advanced manufacturing and technology programming. Manufacturing is currently the third largest sector in the Ozark region with an above-average salary; furthermore, the sector is expected to grow through 2024. However, while unemployment rates in the region are low, wages are also low relative to elsewhere in the state. This proposed facility will address existing and future workforce needs while also raising wages in the area.

Project Cost: $22,000,000
Local Match: $12,000,000
State Request: $10,000,000

Click here for campus map.
Click here for Google view.
2. Republic Education Center - Site Development

OTC’s application for matching funds from the Higher Education Capital Fund for fiscal year 2020 will develop a 7.6 acre tract of land that will constitute the initial phase of a future OTC Education Center located on Highway 60 on the west side of Republic. The site was donated to OTC in December 2014. The initial phase will incorporate various aspects of site development to include, but not limited to: surveys, grading, core testing, civil engineering, site analysis, conduit for electrical outlay, security technology, curb and gutter infrastructure, asphalt, and landscaping.

The establishment of a Republic Education Center is supported by strong population growth in recent years in southwestern Greene County, western Christian County, and the city of Republic. The population in the immediate service area around the proposed site grew by 16 percent from 2000 to 2010. A future center will provide more accessible education to over 1,000 OTC students in the area currently commuting to an existing location. The proposed center will also provide increased access to postsecondary education for a region that is currently under-served by Missouri’s community colleges. The percentage of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree in Dade (15 percent) and Lawrence (16 percent) counties are significantly below the statewide rate of 29 percent.

Population and enrollment analyses project that this center will serve roughly 600 students initially, with the potential to grow to 1,300 new students. This center could serve important educational goals for the state of Missouri and increase college accessibility.