

**To:** Bureau of Legislative Research  
 Room 315, State Capitol  
 Little Rock, AR 72201

**Attn:** Kathy Schmidt, Legislative Analyst  
 Review Committee

**Date:** April 26, 2024

**From:** Dr. Donald R. Bobbitt  
 President, Univeristy of Arkansas System  
 University of Arkansas System Office  
 2404 North University Avenue  
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**Institution:** University of Arkansas, Monticello

**Institution Contact:** Mr. Alex Becker  
 Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration

**Project Description:**

The Arkansas Forest Health Research Center will consist of a new facility on the University of Arkansas at Monticello (UAM) campus designed and equipped for state-of-the-art research, education, and workforce development for disciplines vital to monitoring and researching forest health threats throughout Arkansas. The Center will serve as a testing and support center for the state’s forestry industry and agencies, analyzing plant, soil, and image samples from throughout the state; it can also serve as an additional testing facility within Arkansas for chronic wasting disease affecting its deer population.

This facility will contain pathology, entomology, and genetic research labs as well as microbiology and chemistry teaching labs. The microbiology and chemistry labs will serve as teaching labs for UAM students in allied health degree emphasis areas (medicine, nursing, dentistry, physical therapy, pharmacy, veterinary). The microbiology and chemistry labs will also serve as teaching labs for agronomy, animal science, and natural resources students.

**Procurement Method:** RFQ as authorized by A.C.A. 19-4-1415

**Contractor:** Clark Contractors, LLC

**Term:** 26 Months

**Estimated Completion Date:** June 2026

**Total Project Cost:** \$15,273,000

**Funding Sources (%):**

100%	ARPA Funds