

Harwich Public Safety Q & A

1. **Q. Why do we need a building that is larger than the present Police Station**

A. Many reasons. Police and Fire work has evolved dramatically over the past few years. This facility must meet all of these needs – many of which are mandated by applicable Codes and regulations – for a long period of time. The police mandate has expanded to include, among other things, domestic violence issues, and, as society changes the work is more complex. Required paper work, permitting, record-keeping and community services have also expanded. The Fire service has expanded to include EMS and emergency environmental responses. Fire service is a much more professionally-based organization now with fewer volunteer firefighters. Again, required paper work has increased and impeccable record keeping is essential.

2. **Q: How do you determine exactly how big a Police facility needs to be?**

A: The actual size of each space in the facility comes from a program of space needs developed specifically for the Harwich Police Department. The program is derived from an analysis of each function that must occur within the facility. The analysis includes consideration of all equipment and/or furniture used in the performance of these functions and the number of staff (or public) likely to be present. Multiple functions can often share a single space because either staff performs several different functions or scheduling can be controlled to avoid conflicts. This is also taken into account so that spaces are not duplicated. Non-programmed spaces such as walls, corridors, toilets and mechanical spaces are added to the programmed spaced for a total space requirement.

3. **Q. What are the benefits of a combining Police and Fire in a single facility?**

A. The Town benefits from avoiding duplication of some spaces and operating costs. Some shared spaces are; dispatch area (and equipment), fitness room, training facility/ Emergency Operation Center (Note: this room can also be made available for community functions when not scheduled for training), vehicle maintenance and refuse disposal facilities.

4. **Q: Why do we need an EOC?**

A: Every community needs to have a facility available to Town officials and staff coordinating for emergency responses of the different services involved. Ideally this should be near the Town's central dispatch location thus facilitating coordination between Police, Fire, EMS and DPW as well as being able to be in direct communication with regional responders, Civil Defense and National Guard when necessary.

5. **Q. Why do the Police and Fire Department staffs need a Fitness room?**

A: Because of the physical nature of their work, fitness is part of their job requirements. An on-site facility provides them a convenient resource for meeting part of the fitness requirement. Adequate space is provided within the building, but all equipment is purchased by Police/Fire association or donated at no cost to taxpayers.

6. **Q: Why is a Training Room necessary?**

A: We now live a highly complex world of diverse and sophisticated crimes and an environment full of hazardous chemicals. Police and Fire agencies require continuing education and updates to stay abreast of evolving issues and changing procedures.

7. **Q. Why will this facility cost so much?**

A. *The combination of rising energy costs, increased competition for global resources, more complex building systems and a diminished pool of responsible building contractors in the public sector have produced higher-than-expected bids for Police and Fire facilities in the recent past. However, painstaking estimates to establish most probable costs are just that: Estimates. No one knows how much this facility will cost until the successful bidder tells us how much he'd be willing to do it for.*

Also, State Law requires all public building projects to be competitively bid to contractors that pay prevailing wages.

8. **Q; Will the new construction effect public safety in town?**

A. *Phase 1 the new dispatch will be constructed in the existing Fire Dept meeting room along with the new entrance lobby, when that is complete the dispatch equipment will be moved over to the new space with no interruptions in service*

Phase 2 the new Police facility will be built adjacent to the old station and connected to the Fire Dept.

Phase 3 the old Police station will be demolished and the parking lots and landscaping will be completed.

9. **Q . Will there be tours of the existing building?**

A. *Yes, we will schedule tours of the existing Police Station as well as having video tours on Channel 18*

10. **Q. What will the new yearly facility utilities and maintenance costs be compared to existing stations (Fire and Police) present day costs.**

A. *These costs are as follows: Today's costs: \$190,262 Yearly: New facility costs: \$153,842 Yearly.*

11. **Q. What has been done to date to reduce cost of the new facility?**

A. *We have reduced the building size by over 1700 square feet by shorting the length of the building by 8.5 feet.. We are using the Fire Department training room and lobby for our new Joint Dispatch center. We have eliminated one detention cell, eliminated rooms by co-sharing , combined Fire officer lockers with Police for fitness center, using Fire Station gray water tanks for Police Station, Sharing communications tower, Sharing Fitness Center, Sharing Training room/ Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Sharing present vehicle maintenance in fire Station, Sharing records room, Having the Town's Public works Department assist in site preparation and having local contractors bid on demolition and removal of existing Police Station.*

12. **Q. Was space for future growth put into the building?**

A. *Yes, we added a total of 200 Square feet in the upper floor for one Lieutenants office and one sergeant's cubicle. We also left space in the locker rooms for future growth in patrol officers.*

13. **Q. What will the conference room in the fire station be used for?**

A. *Everyday conference room and small training room.*

14. **Q. Why is the patrol Sergeants room large enough to hold six (6) patrol sergeants?**

A. *Because the present day operations have 5 patrol sergeants and we have left space to add a cubicle for the 6th Sergeant if needed for future growth. Sharing of cubicles is not feasible because of shift change problems and the paperwork associated with collateral duties performed by the Sergeants.*

15. **Q. What is the auxiliary office on the upper floor being used for?**

A. *This is the only room we have added to the building for future growth as a 3rd Lieutenants office.*

16. **Q. Why do we have so many detention cells in the building?**

A. *We are required by law to have a male cell block with 2 cells and one juvenile/ handicap cell and a cell block with 2 female cells and one juvenile / handicap cell which are separated by sight and sound.*

17. **Q. Why does the complex have to be enclosed by security fence?**

A. *To protect the police and Fire vehicles and equipment from vandalism.*

18. Q. Why can't we have local landscapers do the landscaping? There would be no savings unless we could have our highway department do it. The highway department is not in the landscaping business.

19. Q. Why does the entrance way/lobby have an open gallery?

A. Since the gallery is not large enough to be used for a room or storage space and can't be easily accessed, it makes more sense to use this area as an open part of the lobby and making the lobby more public friendly.

20. Q. Why are we using dormers on the new building?

A. By using dormers we are able keep the height of the upper floor lower and the room space can be used fully not losing to a short wall, savings construction costs. This is the same reason the Fire Station was built with dormers.

21. Q. Would it be cheaper to build one massive facility connected to the Fire Station on one full side?

A. The Architect did a full study for us on taking this approach. They said it would cost us considerably more, because the Fire Station wall would have to be replaced and the whole building would have to be upgraded to meet the new building code. The present approach using the common entrance lobby to join the 2 buildings is the most cost effective way to construct this facility.

22. Q. Would it be cheaper to build a separate Police facility?

A. No-----By co-sharing Dispatch, vehicle maintenance in the Fire Station you reduce the cost of a stand alone Police Station.

23. Q. What building materials would be most cost effective?

A. The Architect said that they were recommending that the standard steel frame structure be replaced with wood, because of the escalating price of steel. The rest of the materials being used in the construction will be the most durable cost effective, maintenance free materials available that meet the required code.

24. Q. Will this be a "Green" facility?

A. We have adopted a strategy of designing the new Police Station as LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified with our architect.

The Architect's approach to designing the new facility will be to consider and review applicable "Green" design strategies with the building committee so that those that are cost effective in the view of the committee may be incorporated into the design.

25. Q. What criteria is the building being built too?

A. The building is being designed for 40+ year usability and is being designed for today's present staff. We have added only 200 Square feet of space for future growth in Police Officers if required. (One Lieutenant Office, one Sergeant Cubicle, space for Patrol Officer lockers in the locker room)

26. Q. What will be construction cost be for the May 2008 Town meeting?

A. The estimated appropriation number for Construction, Site Development, Furnishings, Communications Equipment, Architect/Project Management fees, and 5% Contingency is: \$10,000,000. We will not get final construction costs until we receive the bids in March 2008.

27. Q. How does this total cost affect property taxes?

A. The money will be borrowed with a 20year payback, and will add about 17 cents to the tax rate and dropping to 10 cents in the 20th year. For homeowners with property valued at \$450,000, the cost will be about \$76 in the first year, dropping to about \$43 in the final year. Average over 20 years, the cost will be around \$60 each year, or about \$5 per month.