

Public Safety Facility

The City of Eagleville has taken several steps in the last year in considering the need for a new Police and Fire Department building. This section will provide some context and history, with the intention of adding more information as we progress.

History:

The existing police and fire building, constructed in the 1950's was originally an automotive service station. Years later, it became City Hall and intermittently as the home for the police and fire departments. Additions were constructed in at least two different time periods for the sake of housing fire trucks.

Condition:

Currently, six staff members work out of the police and fire building on a daily basis, plus approximately 15 volunteer firefighters dedicated to serving the Eagleville community. It goes without saying that office space of less than 1,000 square feet is inadequate for workspace, much less for the maintenance and storage of equipment. The Eagleville Fire Department has been fortunate in opportunities to acquire vehicles in recent years. However, we do not have the bay space in which to park them all, which is problematic for maintenance and response (particularly in the winter). The building also lacks shower or locker facilities, kitchen space, and living quarters. This limits the Fire Department's potential in the future to offer 24-hour fire protection.

As Eagleville and the surrounding areas grow, it will become more and more difficult to respond to emergencies from our existing facility. In the current facility, we cannot house our existing equipment. Adding to the existing facility – which is already quite piecemeal – is not feasible. That puts us in the position of needing a new facility. Though we may not have – or be able to provide right away – 24-hour staffing to the Fire Department, knowing the anticipated growth in our area, it would be wise to plan for the space we will soon require.

Preliminary Steps:

In early 2016, the city requested that a UT Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) specialist in fire department operations conduct a study of the feasibility of a property the city owns immediately behind City Hall. The MTAS study concluded that the site was feasible. Not only is the site within 30 yards of the existing police and fire building, which means that “moving” the departments will not damage response times, but the site remains as central as is possible to both the City of Eagleville and Fire District 45 (the 36 square mile area to which our Fire Department responds).

The next step the city took in 2016 was to have a geotechnical analysis performed on the property to ensure that the land was feasible from a structural engineering standpoint. This study would also indicate that there were no conditions that would prohibit its use. While this step may seem extreme, it is important to understand that police and fire stations, as critical infrastructure, are held to higher building code standards and typically carry larger than normal weight loads. Having an early understanding of underground conditions can make the construction process much smoother.

Plans:

Early plans, developed by staff, and in large part derived from the suggested square footage in the MTAS study, hope to include three (3) drive through bays deep enough to house two (2) class A fire trucks

each, living quarters for firefighters, training/meeting room space that might double as community room space, ample storage for files, equipment, gear, etc., shower/locker facilities, and various other features common to modern police and fire department facilities.

In January 2017, a contract was approved for architectural and design services with Kennon Calhoun Workshop (KCW) of Nashville. KCW has had experience recently with the City of Murfreesboro's new Police Headquarters, the EOC in Sumner County, and the Police Headquarters for the Cities of Franklin and Columbia. It is anticipated that the design phase will take approximately four (4) months.

Financing:

Though cost estimates will vary throughout the design process – as square footage is reduced, or as features are added or removed, early estimates would suggest that the project, including design and furnishing, could be approximately \$2,500,000.

The City actively seeks out grant opportunities and will continue to do so – whether that is for construction or for elements within the building itself. While we are seeking out those other sources, we are also moving ahead in securing financing through the USDA Community Facilities program, which offers low, fixed rates up to 40 years for facilities such as this.

The City Council adopted a resolution in January 2017 to acknowledge any expenditures from that date forward that are public facility related so that the city may have the option to reimburse itself through financing proceeds. That will not become mandatory, but will be an option available to the city that may provide some flexibility.

In Honor of Councilman David Rigsby:

David Rigsby was a vocal advocate of the Police and Fire Departments and in ensuring that the departments had the tools necessary to do their jobs correctly. In the last year as the public safety facility was discussed, he was clearly supportive of the effort to move the project forward. At the January 2017 City Council meeting, the Council adopted a resolution honoring the memory of Mr. Rigsby and his 22 years of service on the Council, naming the proposed facility the "David W. Rigsby Public Safety Center."