

2025 Police Station Fact Sheet

* Updated June 9, 2025

Tax Impact

- 2025 Total Levy: \$5,313,585
- Estimated Increase to 2027 Total Levy: \$694,964
 - 13.1% Increase to Total Levy if 2026 and 2027 Levy remain unchanged
- Estimated Impact to Residents:
 - \$300,000 Home: \$155.67 Annual Increase (\$12.97/month)
 - Based on estimated 2026 Valuation Amounts from Scott and Le Sueur Counties

Police Station Costs Throughout the Process

- January 2023 Estimate
 - Stand Alone Facility: \$14,850,000
 - Combination City Hall/Police Station: \$25,800,000
 - Do Nothing/Maintenance Needs: \$1,860,000
 - *Estimate of Costs Doubling in Ten Years for New Facility Based on Historical Construction Inflation*
- November 2023 Estimate
 - Stand Alone Facility: \$12,200,000
- December 2025 Estimate
 - Stand Alone Facility: \$12,200,000
- Project Budget Based on Bids:
 - \$10,790,000 (Construction, Testing, Fees, Furniture, Equipment, Etc.)
 - \$7,988,000 (Construction)

Cost Comparison

- Fire Station
 - Year Built: 2008
 - Cost: \$5,200,000
 - Yearly Bond Payment: \$390,000 (Average)
 - 1/3 of the Bond Payment made by Rural Fire District
 - Yearly City Levy: \$260,000 (Average)
 - Increased Levy about 7.6%
- Police Station
 - Year Built: 2025
 - Cost: \$10,790,000 (Estimated)
 - Construction
 - Yearly Bond Payment: \$694,964 (Estimated)
 - Increase City Levy about 13.1% (Estimated)
- Historically, construction inflation has tracked between 4-5% per year. After the great recession in 2008, construction inflation flattened. Following COVID in 2020, construction inflation saw some increases over 10% per year.
- If an estimated 4.5% construction inflation rate is added to the \$5.2m bond for the Fire Station in 2008, the 2025 amount of the bond would be about \$10.9m. So historically, the bond needed for the police station tracks similarly to the bond for the fire station based on historical construction inflation rates.

Timeline

- March 2022: Request for Proposal for a Facilities Study
- June 2022: Council hires Wold Architects to conduct a Facility Study
- October 2022: City Council update on Facility Study
- January 2023: City Council update on Facility Study
- February 2023: City Council update on Facility Study
- April 2023: City Council update on Facility Study
- November 2023: Final Facility Needs Study Presented to the City Council. Council enters into Agreement with Wold Architects for a Schematic Design on a new standalone police facility.
- March 2024: City Council update on Schematic Design
- October 2024: City Council presented Schematic Design. Council enters into Agreement with Wold Architects for Construction Documents.
- February 2025: City Council presentation of Construction Documents. City Council advertises for required public hearing on CIP Bonds.

- March 2025: During noticed City Council meeting, the City Council discussed the CIP Bond and its impacts on the community. Following the discussion, the City Council inadvertently does not formally open the public hearing on the CIP Bonds. Not realizing the miss-step, the City Council moves forward with CIP Bonds, opening the 30-day reverse referendum period.
- April 2025: With no reverse referendum petition submitted, the City Council opens the bids on the construction documents and awards the construction of the police station to Met-Con for \$7,988,000.
- May 2025: During its regularly schedule City Council meeting, the City Council is informed that a mistake may have been made two months earlier in the process and that, if true, the sale of the CIP bonds would not meet State requirements. Unable to verify the new information during the meeting, the City Council is advised by the City Attorney to proceed with the sale of the bonds. Following the meeting, the City Attorney reviews the sale process as is standard practice and finds the City Council did not meet all requirements for a public hearing in March 2025. With this finding, the City Attorney advises the City Council to restart the CIP Bond process by noticing and holding a public hearing in June 2025.
- June 2025: The City Council held a public hearing for CIP Bond to fund the police station addition.

Material and Equipment Considerations

The facility is being constructed with industry-standard materials and equipment, deliberately chosen to meet functional requirements without unnecessary upgrades or luxury features. For example, the building incorporates standard construction materials like concrete and steel, and the equipment, such as evidence storage systems and workstations, adheres to common law enforcement specifications. The design prioritizes essential functions—secure storage, modernized infrastructure, and compliance with Minnesota state laws, while keeping costs low. The final construction bid of \$7.988 million reflects a practical, cost-effective approach, far from an extravagant project.

Training Space

The Police department will utilize this area for Defensive tactics training to reduce the cost of renting a facility in the future. This space will be open to both the Police and the Fire Departments to ensure personnel have a safe, effective space to train for the needs their positions.

Intake

The New Prague Police Department's intake and processing area is for managing evidence, not holding prisoners. Evidence like fingerprints or weapons needs to be logged, packaged, and stored securely for investigations and court cases. Some felony crimes, like murder or sexual assault, require evidence to be held forever for appeals or re-examinations. The current evidence room is almost out of space, making a dedicated intake and processing area even more critical.

Need

In two comprehensive space needs studies, one commissioned in 2004 and one in 2022, the need for a larger, more modern space for the police department was recurring. The current facility lacks a drug testing station and an armory. These additions, mandated by Minnesota state and labor laws, are vital for evidence integrity and public safety. A modern facility would also provide updated technology, secure storage for weapons, private interview rooms for victims, and a dedicated space for prisoner-attorney consultations, ensuring compliance and enhancing community safety.