



INVESTING IN NEW POLICE AND FIRE FACILITIES

Stronger Together, Committed to Safety

Public safety is a core responsibility of city government. The City of Owatonna's police and fire facilities have served the community well but no longer meet modern public safety standards or the needs of today's first responders.

To address these challenges, the City is moving forward with a plan to build **new, separate police and fire facilities** at the same time. This approach ensures each department has a space designed for its specific operations while making the best use of public resources.

The City selected two sites already owned by the City:

- A **new fire station** at the current Law Enforcement Center property
- A **new police department** at the West Hills Campus

These sites offer the best combination of strategic location, operational efficiency and cost-effective use of existing City property. Together, this approach:

- **Protects fast response times:** Both facilities remain centrally located to ensure quick service and emergency response times across the City.
- **Uses City-owned land:** No new land purchases are needed, saving money and minimizing disruption.
- **Responsible use of funds:** Building now avoids higher future construction costs and reduces pressure on aging facilities.

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

In 2024, the City conducted a detailed facilities assessment of its public safety buildings. This assessment identified several challenges including aging infrastructure, space limitations and the need for upgrades to meet current safety standards.

Our Aging Police and Fire Buildings Have:

- Water leaks and sewage line problems
- Outdated roofing, windows and technology systems
- Outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems



The Current Buildings Lack:

- Modern safety systems to protect first responders
- Functional space for effective police and fire department operations
- Adequate space for training and employee wellness
- Adequate onsite parking for police and fire vehicles and equipment.
- Space for future growth and enhanced emergency response capabilities

Specific Police Challenges:

Originally built as a commercial bank nearly 60 years ago, Owatonna's Law Enforcement Center was never designed for modern policing. It lacks secure holding areas, proper evidence processing space, adequate parking and private, secure rooms for sensitive conversations with victims and witnesses.



Specific Fire Challenges:

Built in 1906, the Fire Station was designed for the trucks and emergency operations of a different era. It does not provide the space, ventilation, decontamination areas or living quarters required to support today's firefighters and modern emergency response.



OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

The City of Owatonna is committed to providing high-quality public safety services that support the community and its first responders.

Modern, functional facilities are essential to:

- Protect public safety
- Maintain efficient building systems to reduce operational costs
- Provide sufficient and functional space to support the operations, training and collaboration required for effective emergency response
- Support the safety, health and well-being of first responders
- Foster stronger relationships with regional public safety partners and the public
- Create space for outreach programs
- Meet current needs and prepare for future growth

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$61 million

To learn more about these projects, visit [Owatonna.gov/psf](https://www.owatonna.gov/psf).

