

NEW LAWRENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS Q&A

Is there a site plan available?

A site plan will be developed once a contract has been awarded to a design consultant for architectural and engineering services. We are currently in the consultant selection process.

Does it show just the first phase or the total build out expected for the facility?

The architectural scope of work for the Police Facility – Phase 1 project includes showing the total build out on the site.

Where will the entrances and exits be located, on Overland or Wakarusa or both?

We would recommend the access be on Overland since we like to avoid direct access to an arterial (Wakarusa) whenever possible. Access points will be evaluated as part of traffic impact data.

Will a traffic study be required?

The traffic data that is required in City Code for all developments will be completed for this project. The traffic data analyzed includes the proposed access to the site and the characteristics of the roads that access is taken from as well as the estimated trip generation from the proposed development.

Are there plans for signalization or other safety upgrades to the intersection of Overland and Wakarusa?

The traffic data will be evaluated per our City Code. If it shows that upgrades are warranted then that will be addressed.

What will the facility use create in terms of noise for surrounding properties?

Typically, emergency response (lights & siren) from police officers is conducted by vehicles patrolling in the city. Emergency response does occur from a police station, but it is not a frequent occurrence.

Will inmates or suspects be present at the facility or housed there for short- or long-term stays?

There will be no jail accommodations or holding cells within the facility. Suspects of crimes could be interviewed at the facility. If arrested, those individuals would be transported to the Douglas County Jail or other applicable holding facility. Currently, this practice of interviewing suspects takes place at both the Law Enforcement Center and Investigations and Training Center.

I have read that less than third of the 29 acres will be preserved for park space. This seems quite small, given the almost 20-year old promise to the community that the entire property would be dedicated to park space for northwest Lawrence residents. Can you elaborate on why so little is preserved in this plan? Why should the district or the surrounding communities be supportive of the City going back on that promise of green space to the community?

With the development of the site plan for the police facility, there will be the opportunity to move forward with a masterplan for this neighborhood park. Over time this property has been considered for a variety of potential parks and recreation functions including a neighborhood park, a recreation center and even a ball diamond complex. The opportunity to develop a masterplan for the park will permit public interaction with the surrounding neighborhood and stakeholders to determine the desired amenities for the park. Depending on the eventual building location within the site, there will be opportunities to develop trails, fitness areas, playgrounds and other park amenities for neighborhood

use. It is anticipated the police facility and neighborhood park will easily coexist on this site with ample greenspace for public use.

What provisions will be made to lessen the impact of light, traffic, and noise on surrounding homes and school district properties?

The buildings and parking lots will be arranged to minimize light trespass from the site and to shield residential areas from noise. “Full cutoff” or “full focused” light fixtures will be used to reduce glare. Perimeter landscaping, berms, and increased setback distances will also be considered to minimize any impacts on surrounding properties. Traffic data will be evaluated and any necessary improvements will be included in the design.

What specific steps must now occur in the planning process, and at what points will the district or the public be able to provide input into the final plans for phase one? What about future phases? Is there a timeline in place for that development?

The police facility site will require the following planning submittals: Rezoning, Special Use Permit (site plan), and Platting. All of these include public hearings in the process. These submittals are processed concurrently and typically take 3-5 months. We anticipate starting the planning process in September. Future police facility phases are not currently funded or listed in the next 5-year CIP.

What safety concerns do you think district parents should realistically have about this facility being located across the street from the high school? If the answer is none, why?

Parents should expect to have an increased police presence in the general area of the high school, but not necessarily on school property. Police presence often acts as a significant deterrent to criminal activity and allows for drastically reduced response times to major incidents, including potential threats to the school, medical emergencies and disturbances. It is increasingly common for the high schools to request police presence at events or in times where potential threats may occur. The location of the facility provides this ongoing presence daily.

Specifically, what other properties were considered as sites for the facility? Why were each of those sites rejected?

17 Sites were originally examined using criteria established by city management, police personnel and an architectural team. Of those 17 sites, 5100 Overland Drive was the #2 ranked overall site and was the only publicly owned site that met the sites minimum requirements. Ultimately, a privately-owned site was originally selected. After a 2014 vote, city staff received overwhelming feedback that the public desired a city-owned site for the future home of the police station. The City owns 71 sites with the required minimum acreage. Of those sites, all but one, 5100 Overland Drive fell into one of four categories.

- Already in existing use 33
- Portions or all of site in a flood plain 26
- Targeted for economic development (Venture Park) 7
- City owned located in the county 4

Site consideration for 5100 Overland Drive included: The site is already city-owned, is close to a major east-west arterial street (West 6th Street), it has several north/south arterial street options from which access can be gained for traveling to and from the location, and it has reasonable proximity to K-10 and I-70. One additional advantage when placed in the context of a phased approach is the property’s close

proximity to the current Investigations and Training Center (ITC), which would continue to be occupied by the police department for a yet undetermined amount of time. One disadvantage is the location may not provide as much immediate street visibility as some other locations would. Although not centrally located, it is the opinion of the Planning and Services Department that the more immediate and future growth in the city will occur west of this location, so it would become more centralized as time goes on. The potential development costs were among the lowest examined and estimated at \$275,000 - \$300,000 in 2014.

Please see the attached memorandum on "Police Facility Site Selection" for further information.

With regard to traffic, what impact does the lack of development on Queens Road have on the police facility plans? Is the paving of Queens Road necessary to mitigate the traffic impact from the police facility on Overland and Wakarusa, or on the stretch of Overland that passes in front of Free State High School?

Paving of Queens Road is not necessary to mitigate the traffic impact from the police facility. The majority of traffic to and from the facility will be coming from or going to the east and south. The minimal traffic from the west will have a more direct route to the facility from Congressional Dr. Again, the traffic data will be evaluated per our City Code. Any traffic concerns or warranted upgrades are not able to be determined until after the traffic data is analyzed.

Please address how the planning committee concluded the proximity to Free State High School is in the student, school, & community's best interests.

Once 5100 Overland Drive was identified as one of two finalists for city owned police facility sites, police staff contacted district staff to identify any potential concerns. There were no issues related to the proximity of Free State High School at the time. In the past few months, department staff has met with the Interim Superintendent and spoken with administration from the high school and no significant issues have been raised. The proximity of the police facility to the high school provides reduced response time to incidents in or around the school and the potential for increased positive interactions between officers and students. In today's climate and in light of the significant number of major events at schools across the nation, it is clear the proximity of the high school and police facility has benefit to the student, school and community.

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