



CITY OF OWATONNA | REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY PROJECT

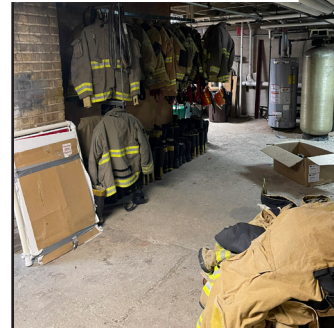
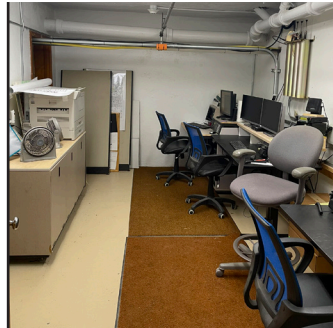
Project Information

The City of Owatonna's police and fire department facilities are outdated and do not meet current public safety standards or the needs of first responders and the essential services they provide. The City is planning to build a new joint public safety center to overcome these challenges, support employee safety and wellness and protect the community.

Owatonna is a Greater Minnesota regional center. The new facility will help meet regional public safety needs. It will serve as Steele County's emergency operations center, support area fire departments through mutual aid agreements, enhance multi-jurisdictional Emergency Response Team efforts and strengthen regional training opportunities.



CURRENT FACILITY CHALLENGES



THE PROCESS

Phase

1

Facilities Assessed, Task Force Created and Plan Recommended

(May 2024—Dec. 2024)

Phase

2

Siting, Design and Project Financing

(Jan. 2025—Dec. 2025)

Phase

3

Implementation, Bidding, Materials and Construction

(Jan. 2026—Sept. 2027)

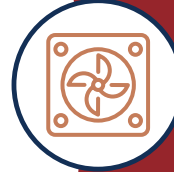
Current Facility Challenges

The aging buildings have:

- Ongoing water leaks and sewage line issues
- Outdated and inefficient roofing and windows
- Aging heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Outdated mechanical and technology systems

The current facilities lack:

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



Project Benefits



**Ensure
efficient
response times**



**Support
employee safety
and wellbeing**



**Increase training
and collaboration**



**Enhance outreach
programs**



**Enhance regional
safety and inter-
agency cooperation**



**Streamline operations
and reduce
maintenance costs**



**Create a modern
facility to last
generations**

Project Finances

Investment by City for facilities assessment and planning as of January 1, 2025: \$1,500,000

Total Project Cost: \$53,000,000

Investment Request: \$1,500,000

State bonding would help fund phase two of the City's facilities planning process, which includes site selection, facility design and budget confirmation.



REGIONAL IMPACT

A new public safety center would provide space for the City's fire and police departments and regional public safety training opportunities that cannot currently be supported. It would also:

- Serve as the emergency operations center for Steele County
- Support rural fire response to 200 square miles in Steele County
- Serve as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training site for Steele County
- Function as the main base for Steele County Skywarn
- Enhance regional training opportunities for first responders across Minnesota
- Create adaptable training facilities to support both fire and police emergency readiness

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