

Proposal

Subject: Proposed Use of Former Fire Station as a Police Department Training Facility

Chief,

Officer Walker and I have discussed some ideas for the former City Fire Department building and how the Police Department could potentially make productive use of the facility. After looking at the space and discussing some of the Department's current training needs, we came up with a preliminary plan to develop the building into a **Police Department training and multi-purpose facility**.

Since the Fire Department merger, the building has been largely unused, with portions of the bays and office areas currently being used for storage by several City entities. We think there is an opportunity to put the building back into regular use while addressing several training and operational needs of the Police Department.

We wanted to bring the idea to you first for your consideration. If you believe it would benefit the Department and is worth pursuing, the proposal could then be presented to the City Council for consideration.

Proposed Uses

The building could potentially be used for:

- **Department training:** Classroom instruction, in-service training, practical exercises, and other department training activities.
- **ARCON and defensive tactics:** The apparatus bays would provide enough room for ARCON and other hands-on defensive tactics training. Weiser Wrestling has offered to donate wrestling mats for our use. The wrestling program would need access to the mats and facility for approximately one week each year.
- **Scenario-based training:** Temporary or movable walls could be constructed in a portion of the bay to create different layouts for building searches, room clearing, decision-making, de-escalation, use-of-force scenarios, and other practical exercises using UTM and other training equipment.
- **K-9 training:** Portions of the building could also be utilized for narcotics-detection and other K-9 training, providing a consistent location for training without making K-9 operations the primary purpose of the facility.
- **Department meetings and briefings:** The Police Department conference room can be restrictive for larger meetings. The former fire station already has a television, projector, kitchen, restrooms, and meeting space that could accommodate larger department meetings and training sessions.
- **Other City training and meetings:** When available, the classroom and meeting areas could potentially be used by other City departments, allowing the building to remain a resource for the City as a whole.

Initial Cost and Setup

Officer Walker and I have also discussed how we could get the facility operational while keeping the initial cost to the City as low as possible.

Off-duty Police Department personnel could assist with cleaning and organizing the building through the City's adopt-a-truck program. The old fire apparatus currently stored in the bays could be relocated while awaiting eventual disposition or auction.

Weiser Wrestling has offered to donate wrestling mats, and officers could assist with setup and installation. A local business has also offered to provide scrap lumber that could be used to construct temporary training walls, with officers volunteering their time to assist with construction.

The building already has many of the basic amenities we would need, including office and classroom space, a television, projector, kitchen, restrooms, and large apparatus bays. Because of this, we believe the facility could begin being utilized without a significant initial investment.

Benefits

We believe this could provide several benefits to both the Police Department and the City. It would give our officers a dedicated location for practical and classroom training, allow us to conduct more realistic scenario-based training, provide adequate space for defensive tactics and K-9 training, and give us a larger location for department meetings.

It would also put an existing City-owned building back into regular use and provide the Police Department with responsibility for routinely occupying and monitoring the facility rather than allowing it to remain primarily a storage location.

Our thought would be to start simple. We are not proposing a major renovation or significant City expenditure. The initial goal would be to clean and organize the building, utilize the existing layout, and make reasonable improvements gradually as resources and needs allow.

Officer Walker and I wanted to bring the idea to you first to see if you believe it would be beneficial to the Department and worth pursuing with the City Council. If you are interested in moving forward, we can put together a more detailed plan showing the proposed use of each area of the building, what would need to be moved or cleaned out, available donated materials and labor, and any anticipated costs.

Sgt. C. Samson

Officer T. Walker