



Proposed Dodge County & City of Fremont Joint Law Enforcement Center Corner of 29th Street & Lincoln Avenue

Both the Dodge County Supervisors and Fremont Mayor and City Council unanimously approved the bond language for a new Joint Law Enforcement Center that voters will consider on November 3, 2020. The bond issue would fund the new joint center to provide a one-stop shop for public safety needs in Dodge County and Fremont.

This is the eighth and final flyer of the eight-part educational series to provide information in regards to the proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center that would house the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, the Fremont Police Department, and the 911 Communications Center. The entire eight-part series can be found on the City of Fremont's website: <http://www.fremontne.gov/826/Joint-Law-Enforcement-Center>. This flyer summarizes the past seven flyers on each topic discussed.



History – The Fremont Police Department and Dodge County Sheriff's Department both occupy buildings that were not designed for law enforcement and are not meeting the needs of the growing departments. With both departments in the same situation, conversations between the two entities to work towards a joint law enforcement facility began in 2011 when a resolution was passed by both the City and the County.

The Need – The buildings where the Police and Sheriff are located were not designed for law enforcement. For example, a law enforcement building has basic features like K9 facilities (kennel), a locker room, space designed for evidence storage, adequate public and staff parking, training room, parking garage, adequate space for offices, interview rooms, and officer reporting area, etc. Neither building currently occupied by the Sheriff or Police have these basic features, because again, neither building was designed to be a law enforcement building.

The needs of law enforcement have never been greater. That is why the proposed joint center has dedicated 10-percent of the space in the building for training. There are rooms specifically designed for defensive tactics and scenario simulation, as well as space for basic training like community policing, alternate uses-of-force, and diversity training. Training not only improves every encounter an officer and deputy have with a citizen, but it also improves the officer and the department's effectiveness.

Timing –The cost of a new, joint facility will never be less. Typically, construction costs increase by 3 to 5 percent per year, so waiting will only cost more. Many contractors have said that the spring of 2021 should be a good time to go out for construction bids because construction is slowing down and contractors will be looking for work for 2021. Also, at today's historic low interest rates on bonds (2 percent or lower), the best time for getting low priced bonds locked in is now.

Questions? Email us: publiccomments@fremontne.gov

Call us: Lt. Shane Wimer 402-727-2630, Deputy Brie Frank 402-727-2700

Location – The proposed Joint Law Enforcement Center would be constructed at the corner of 29th Street and Lincoln Avenue. This parcel is jointly owned by the City of Fremont and Dodge County. The property has plenty of room to expand when the future demand requires it. The location is also large enough for a jail as well. Since law enforcement officers respond from where they are in the field while on patrol, a joint center does not need to be centrally located.

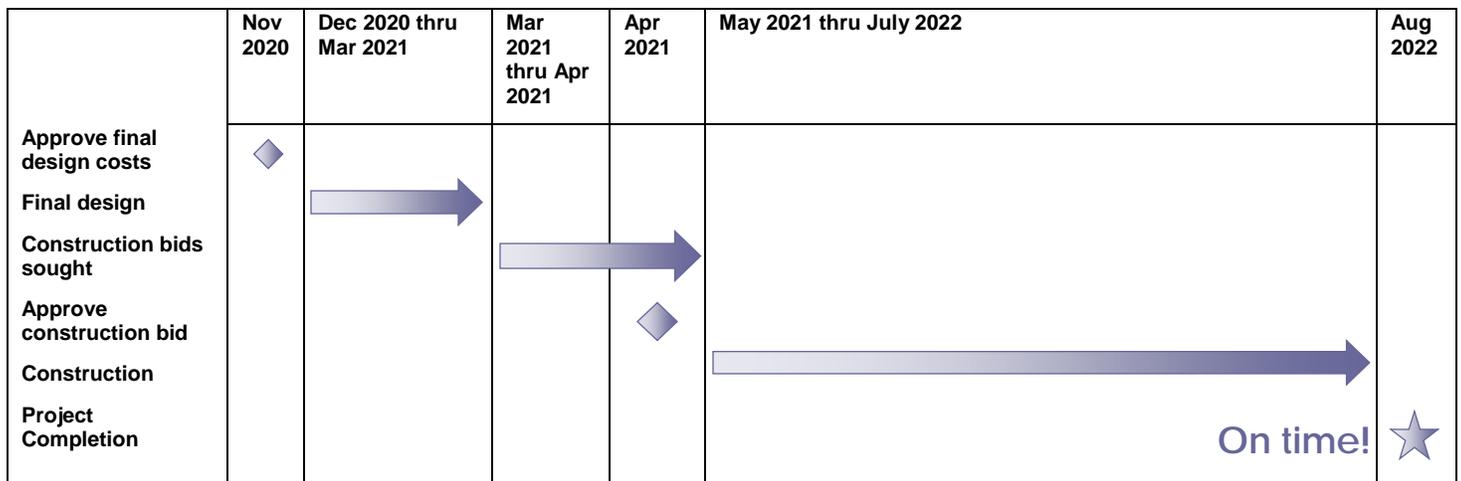
Cost –The cost to property owners inside Fremont is approximately \$79 per year (\$60 in City tax and \$19 in County tax) or \$6.58 per month. The cost to property owners outside Fremont is approximately \$19 per year or \$1.58 per month. These estimates are based on an average property valuation of \$150,000 and the bonds for the center being spread across 15 years at a 2% interest rate.

The proposed joint law enforcement center has over 10,000 square feet of shared space. So, rather than 53,316 square feet, split between two separate facilities, the proposed facility is only 42,980 square feet. This reduction in square footage translates to an estimated savings of approximately \$3.5 million.

Brown & Blue – Because crime knows no boundaries, brown and blue work side by side to lower crime and protect the public. In fact, since 2016, when Dodge, Cuming, and Saunders Counties and the cities of Fremont, Blair, Wahoo, and Yutan signed an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement to form III Corps, brown and blue have worked together to apprehend and prosecute drug dealers. These organizations knew then that collaboration between law enforcement agencies opens lines of communications, lowers crime, and provides better protection to the public. In addition, working side by side allows for better and more accurate information shared between departments. Especially in today’s high-tech world, having access to information, not only reduces misunderstandings and miscommunications, but it improves services and public safety.

In Nebraska, there are several law enforcement agencies that have teamed up including: the Kearney Police and the Buffalo County Sheriff; the South Sioux City Police and the Dakota County Sheriff; and the Plattsmouth Police and the Cass County Sheriff. Other counties and cities our size in other states include: Steamboat Springs Police Department and Routt County Sheriff’s Department in Colorado and the City of Moorhead Police Department and Clay County Sheriff’s Department in Minnesota; and there are many more.

Timeline – The fate of the Joint Law Enforcement Center is in the hands of the Dodge County and City of Fremont voters. When the votes are tallied on November 3, 2020, this project will either move forward as shown in the estimated timeline below or the County Supervisors and Mayor/City Council will have to decide how to best address the needs for law enforcement and public safety.



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*Disclaimer: This is not an endorsement nor a solicitation for a Joint Law Enforcement Center. This is being provided for educational purposes only.