



City Council Agenda Item

City Council Meeting Date: November 19, 2024

TO: Dean Albro, City Manager

FROM: Kevin M. Martin, Chief of Police
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SUBJECT: Adoption of Resolution No. 6720(24) Authorizing Supplemental Appropriations for a Lompoc Police Department Renovation and Expansion Study

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the City Council adopt Resolution No. 6720(24) authorizing supplemental appropriations to fund a study on the possible renovation and expansion of the Police Department facility (Attachment 1).

Background:

When the current Police Department building was constructed in 1986, the Lompoc had a population of 27,739 residents, and the City covered approximately 7 square miles. At that time, the department operated with 36 sworn officers and responded to approximately 17,399 calls for service annually.

Since then, Lompoc has experienced substantial growth, which has directly impacted the operations of the Police Department. In addition to a significant rise in population, Lompoc's geographic size has also expanded. Today, the City spans approximately 11.64 square miles, increasing the demand for police services across a larger area.

Current data demonstrates these changes:

Current Population: 43,834 (2024 estimate)

Current Geographic Size: 11.64 square miles

Current Number of Sworn Officers: 50

Current Annual Calls for Service: 37,859 (2023 data)

This growth has increased the Police Department's staff, resources, and infrastructure demands. The original facility was designed to meet the needs of the City's population

and operational demands in 1986, but it is now struggling to accommodate the present needs of a significantly larger population, a larger geographic area, and a higher call volume.

Comparison: Then vs. Now

The following data highlights the changes since the construction of the current facility in 1986:

Year	Population	Sworn Officers	Annual Calls for Service	Geographic Size
1986	27,739	36	17,399	7 square miles
2024	43,834	50	32,547	11.64 square miles

These numbers demonstrate a significant increase in both population, the geographic size of the City, and the demands on police services over the last few decades:

Population Growth: +58% increase since 1986

Calls for Service: +117% increase since 1986

Sworn Officers: Only a 39% increase in sworn officers despite the dramatic rise in workload

Geographic Expansion: +66% increase in the size of the City

The existing facility, at its current size, can no longer efficiently support the increased staffing, equipment, and operations required to meet the community's needs. A larger facility is essential for the Police Department to maintain high quality of service and enhance public safety.

Discussion:

To effectively serve the growing community and ensure the safety of our residents, the Police Department must expand its operational space. We are proposing a study to evaluate the feasibility of adding 10,000 square feet to the rear of the current building. The study will analyze:

- The cost of expansion
- Design and engineering plans for the additional space
- Potential improvements to operational efficiency
- Increased capacity for staff, equipment storage, and technology infrastructure
- Enhanced space for community engagement, including rooms for public meetings, training, and collaboration.

The proposed 10,000-square-foot expansion would ensure that our department can keep pace with the rising demand for services and continue to protect and serve the community effectively.

This proposed expansion is made possible thanks to the City Council's foresight in approving the long-term lease of the parking lot to the rear of the Police Department. This leased area is in the process of being fenced and gated to enhance security and functionality. The availability of this space is essential for the proposed expansion, as it allows for the additional square footage needed to extend our facility without compromising current operations. This strategic use of adjacent land highlights the City Council's commitment to the long-term success of our department. It underscores the importance of planning for the future needs of our growing city.

As previously explained to the City Council, the department's sworn staffing level is significantly behind today's national averages for a city of our size. Based on these averages, the Police Department would need an additional 50 sworn officers to align with national staffing levels. An increase of this magnitude would also require expanding professional staff to support the increased police force. However, in its existing configuration, the current building cannot accommodate such an expansion in personnel. The proposed 10,000-square-foot addition is critical to support future growth and ensure our facility can house the necessary staff and resources for effective law enforcement operations.

If funding becomes available and the City Council approves the proposed expansion, this additional 10,000 square feet would significantly extend the department's ability to function efficiently out of the current building for an additional 15 to 20 years. By increasing our operational capacity, the expansion will provide the necessary space for future growth, allowing for potential increases in personnel, equipment, and technology. This forward-thinking investment will not only meet the current demand but will also prepare the department for the anticipated growth in Lompoc's population and the corresponding rise in calls for service. This ensures that we remain well-positioned to serve the community long into the future.

To begin evaluating this expansion, the Lompoc Police Department has received a quote from RRM Design Group for the proposed study. The scope of work identified in their proposal includes:

- An "as-is" drawing of the current layout of the Lompoc Police Department facility
- Data gathering to assess the department's needs
- Architectural updates
- A preliminary site and building feasibility study
- Conceptual project budget
- A final program report

The quote for the study is \$60,080 (Attachment 2). This study will be crucial in determining the proposed expansion's feasibility, cost, and next steps.

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the funding for the study to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the Lompoc Police Department by an additional 10,000 square feet. This expansion is essential for our department to continue to provide effective law enforcement services to the community as it grows in population, geographic size, and demand. Furthermore, it would extend the usability of the current facility for an additional 15 to 20 years, allowing us to serve Lompoc effectively for the foreseeable future. Additionally, this expansion is vital to meet the national staffing averages and to ensure the building can accommodate the necessary increases in both sworn and professional staff.

Fiscal Impact:

To fund the study, the Police Department is requesting the City Council approve the use of \$60,080 of Impact Fees already collected and held in restricted cash account 419-100390 (Civic Center – PD Facilities & Vehicles). The current balance in 419-100390 is \$118,569. To utilize this cash account, additional appropriations in Fiscal Year 2024-25 are requested in expense account 419CVC-533100 (Civic Center Design Services). There is no fiscal impact to the General Fund when utilizing these specified impact fees.

Conclusion:

Lompoc has experienced significant growth since 1986 in population and geographic size, expanding from 7 square miles to 11.64 square miles. The demands placed on the Police Department have increased correspondingly. Our facility no longer meets the operational requirements to serve the community effectively. Expanding the Police Department building by an additional 10,000 square feet is a vital step in addressing these challenges and ensuring the safety and security of our residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin M. Martin, Chief of Police

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Dean Albro, City Manager

Attachments: 1) Resolution No. 6720(24)
2) RRM Design Group Proposal