
EXETER NH SAFETY COMPLEX ISSUES

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BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE

10-25-2023

GROWTH

- Exeter Population Growth 1978 → 2023: 46% (11,024 → 16,114). (US Census 1980 and 2021)
- Public Safety Employees Growth 1978 → 2023: 59% (44 → 70)

DEVELOPMENTS IN TOWN SINCE 1978

- Riverwoods did not exist in 1978.
- Epping Rd. Corridor Improvements.
- Multi-lane major throughfare of Rt 101
- Expanded Regional HS.
- PEA Expansion.
- Exeter Hospital Expansion
 - 250,000 S.F. of new building space.
 - Four parking lots
 - Four story parking garage

POLICE

SPACE ISSUES

- Job descriptions, operations and procedures have changed, requiring more and safer spaces.
- Several offices have been created out of splitting an old office in to two.
- One office was created using a storage closet.
- Several workstations are located in hallways of the ground floor and second floor using bump out desks.
- The ground floor workstations are in the hallway which is also where a prisoner is lead to the booking room.
- Dispatcher bathroom was created out of a closet and has no sink.
- Dispatchers have no place to store personal items and there is no private area to eat or hold private conversations.
- Dispatchers need to physically leave the room to address people in the lobby after day hours, creating a lapse in phone and radio attentiveness/response.
- Sergeant's office is not large enough to hold a proper roll call with more than three officers at a time. It is also not a private location, so is unable to be used for private supervisor conversations or speaking with citizens privately.
- The break/small conference room is made out of an old office. The kitchen was created inside of an old closet. There isn't enough room for a full department meeting or training in the break/conference room.
- There is no public restroom.
- Evidence room is maxed out.
- An old cell has been converted to hold additional evidence (firearms and drugs).
- Cold case files are housed in a shed which is not secure or safe from rodents, mice, etc.
- Two holding cells are being reused to store arrest records and police retention of files.
- Of the two cells remaining for usage, one (juvenile) has no lighting.
- Locker rooms are over capacity and cause issues for females (only 5 female lockers).
- The Sally Port is undersized at 9 feet wide.
- The Parking lot has 12 assigned parking spaces however there are 17 actual police vehicles.
- There is no protection from the elements.
- There are only two visitor parking spots.
- Booking room is cramped with the addition of more and larger technological items (fingerprint machine, intoxilyzer, and industrial printers).

- No private areas for detectives to work. Previously only had one detective, now have five. This can compromise witness protection/privacy as well as case integrity.
- Police carry more equipment these days that needs more space to be stored or areas to be cared for properly (charging stations, cleaning stations, etc).

STRUCTURAL ISSUES

- The IT server room houses all of the town's computer servers and related equipment. It was built as an add on by the highway department.
 - The roofing was not flashed correctly and water leakage has been a concern.
 - Buckets are located on the floor to catch water drainage from the A/C unit.
- The dispatcher flooring is elevated over a foot from original footprint, causing ADA issues.

SAFETY ISSUES

- The lobby is insecure, with glass and walls that are not fortified.
- The mechanical room houses phone and major pipe valves. The wall of wires is entangled with phone, fiber and electrical wires next to pipes holding water.
- The Sally Port is being used to house mountain bikes, spare cruiser tires, ammunition and tools such as shovels. It is also where firearms are cleaned. Prisoners can potentially access these items.
- The Sally Port has an emergency door which leads out to an insecure parking lot.
- The parking lot is insecure.
 - Officers have encountered threatening people when going home after their shift.
 - Citizens have walked into the rear lot to film inside of vehicles or building windows.

FIRE

SAFETY ISSUES

- Access to the Fire Department is freely permitted with no security.