



**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE**

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## **West Allis Police Department Training Facility Updated Information**

At the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the West Allis Police Department presented a proposal to construct a Police Training Facility on City property to the north east of the main police building.

Throughout the presentation a number of questions were asked and answered and some valuable discussion occurred. At the end of the presentation, the Committee requested answers to the following questions, which were not directly answered through the discussion at the time:

### **Why doesn't the Waukesha Police Department open their training facility up to other law enforcement agencies?**

Waukesha does not open their training facility up to outside police agencies primarily because they want to maintain availability for their own personnel. They do not want to limit their use of the facility by allowing it to be utilized by others.

In addition, they do not want to be concerned with maintenance costs. They previously allowed other agencies to use their outdoor shooting range; however, fees charged were diverted to the general fund and did not support the range. Because of this, they wanted to avoid fees and usage.

### **Will the structure be constructed in such a way as to support the rigors of the training for which it will be utilized?**

I spoke to Waukesha PD about the construction of their facility. It was designed and constructed by the local technical college. The design utilized is similar to that for a standard home. The only difference is that internal walls are sheeted with plywood as opposed to drywall. In addition, the windows are covered with plexi-glass on the inside to avoid damage during scenario-based training. Other than that, there are no significant modifications.

Waukesha's facility is approximately 15 years old and is still fully functional with minimal maintenance.

The design presented by Kaerek is that of a standard home. We too discussed sheeting the interior walls with plywood and covering the windows with plexi-glass where appropriate. Utilizing standard construction material and methods should suffice for the intended use.

**What are the anticipated yearly maintenance costs for the WAPD training facility?**

Due to the design of the facility, we anticipate maintenance cost to be relatively low. In speaking to Waukesha PD, and asking them about their maintenance cost, here was their reply? We would anticipate our costs to be in line with theirs.

*Chris, Our building is very inexpensive to operate. It has electric power but no heat and no plumbing, so we have no major mechanical issues to deal with. I spend very little on it. Each year, on average, it is probably less than \$200. I replace hardware on our ram door about once a year, but that is only \$20 worth of nuts and bolts. Once in a while we break a window or two, which I will eventually replace, but I haven't even got around to that yet. We put Plexiglas over the inside of the windows which protects them from the sim rounds, but we broke a couple from the outside when guys got a little too close with a distraction device on a bang pole. I spent a little money replacing some roof shingles that blew off in a storm and some fascia, but that was a one time thing. We use about a dozen space heaters which we only run when it's very cold. I have replaced a few of those over the last few years.*

*Ours has walls that we can move, so we reconfigure the floor plan once every 4 or 5 years. That requires some hardware and paint, but again, not very much.*

*The electrical cost is on the same bill as the range building, so I am not sure how much of that bill goes to the shoot house, but it can't be much.*

*I can't remember exactly when we built ours, but it was at least 15 years ago. Other than the stuff I mentioned above, it is holding up well. I plan on painting the exterior in the next few years, but we put Hardie Plank on the outside, so there are really no issues with it.*

*Let me know if you have any other questions.*

If you have any other additional questions or concerns, please let me know.

Respectfully,



Christopher Botsch  
Deputy Chief of Police