

## Operational and Functional Needs of the Proposed Public Safety Building

The feasibility study process included the Police and Fire Chiefs meeting with the architects of HKT and giving them a detailed tour of both stations. This allowed them to better understand current conditions and undertake a comprehensive needs assessment for each sector of public safety - Fire, EMS, Police, and Emergency Operations. This procedure included identifying the operational and functional components the existing buildings currently possess and what they are lacking based on today's institutional standards for public safety departments serving communities the size of Southampton. The feasibility study process also took future growth into account and the building design is intended to meet both current and future needs. The Police and Fire departments currently have approximately 16,000 of square footage for operational needs between existing buildings and outbuildings. The proposed concept design for the public safety complex totals 21,523 square feet. A significant deficiency and safety concern recognized by the chiefs in the current fire department are the apparatus bays, which currently consist of approximately 2,100 square feet. In order to right-size this space to meet today's fire engines and ambulance dimensions, the proposed concept design for apparatus bays was increased by approximately 2,000 square feet.

### The Police Department's Needs Assessment

The proposed concept design for the police department consists of 7 additional spaces. The following are the additional operational components proposed in the concept design that are not in the existing police department and a brief explanation as to why they were included:

- **Public Interview Room and a Safe Room:** This room serves two purposes. It would serve as an interview room for the public for administrative purposes; firearms and solicitation permitting and interviewing victims. Most importantly it serves as a safe room for people that drive to the police department seeking protection. In the event an officer is not in the building, it allows for a secure place for a person to wait for an officer to respond to assist.
- **Decontamination Shower for Officers:** In the performance of their duties police officers can be exposed to bio-hazards and chemical hazards. This allows for a separate shower for decontamination.
- **Arrestee Interview Room:** Allows for a secure location to interview a person arrested for a crime.
- **Booking Holding Room:** Allows for an arrestee to be secured in a room as the officer prepares for the booking process.
- **Decontamination Shower for Arrestees:** Provides a secure location for the decontamination of an arrestee. An example would be if the arrestee was subject to pepper spray.
- **Sally Port:** This allows for an arrestee to be brought directly into the secure facility. Currently, an arrestee is escorted into the building from the outside. It also serves as a layer of privacy.
- **Lunch Room:** Currently officers eat in the conference room/ Emergency Operations Room.

## The Fire Department's Needs Assessment

The fire department's proposed increased space needs were based on insufficient safety for personnel, equipment storage, and office and quarters for personnel that the current building cannot accommodate. Apparatus bays and their size included in the concept design are to ensure that the fire suppression apparatuses can be stored inside to prevent exposure to the elements and freezing temperatures. The current building only has an office space for the Fire Chief. The proposed design includes:

- **SCBA Air Compressor Room:** The need is to refill the self-contained breathing tanks for firefighting. Currently our compressor, fill station & SCBA spare bottle storage rack are in the Ambulance Bay.
- **Two additional offices:** These two proposed offices of not more than 150 square feet each will add to administrative operations. The current fire department only has one office.
- **Gear Storage:** The Fire department does not have a room for gear storage. Fire fighters and EMS personnel store their equipment in lockers located in the apparatus bays.
- **Decontamination Room, Showers, and Laundry:** Firefighters can be exposed to hazardous contaminants and carcinogens from fighting fires, while EMTs and paramedics are exposed to bio-hazards. These areas were included to ensure proper decontamination processes exist.
- **Hose Tower:** A means to dry out hoses for proper storage after use.
- **Bunk Rooms:** Currently sleeping quarters for overnight staff are in a trailer next to the fire station.
- **Day Room and Kitchen:** A location for personnel to prepare meals and eat while on duty.

## Shared Spaces

The concept design includes the following shared spaces.

- **Conference Room:** This room serves as a conference room that can be also used by the public, town committees, and boards.
- **Training/ EOC/ Community Meeting Room:** This is a multi-use room that allows for space for inter-departmental training and professional development for both departments. It also includes space for joint emergency operations during a critical incident, a cooling and heating center for the public, and a meeting room accessible to the public.
- **Fitness Room:** This a proposed 400 square foot space designed to have limited fitness equipment (treadmill, weight bench, exercise bike) for use of the police and fire department personnel.