



# HOMER PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

*"To ensure Homer has adequate emergency services into the future to protect community health and safety using a cost-effective, locally-responsive service model."*

## Project Background

Homer's Police Station was built in 1979. In 1980, the Fire Hall was built on an older garage/shop structure using sweat equity and donations. It is a testament to our staff and volunteers that they have managed to extend the useful life of these facilities.

As call volumes continue to increase, running modern emergency response and police services from aging facilities pose ongoing challenges and costs. This includes:

- High heating fuel/energy costs;
- Limited space for performing basic functions on-site with no room to grow even as community needs expand;
- Lack of efficiency in cramped buildings;
- Safety problems such as inhaling fire truck exhaust indoors, unprotected police dispatch and prisoner visitor areas, and communicable disease exposure concerns;
- Lack of storage for police evidence, equipment, and vehicles; and
- Poor conditions for supporting electronic and communication systems.

## Project Scope & Status

The City has initiated a collaborative effort to explore the options and costs for designing and constructing an up-to-date combined facility for Police and Fire, specifically tailored to local needs and resources. To achieve a more cost-effective facility, Homer is using a General Contractor Construction Manager approach and has hired a consultant team including USKH, Loren Berry Architect and Cornerstone General Contractors.

Preliminary concept design is fully funded and is just getting underway. This phase of work will produce a space needs analysis, siting criteria, concept design, and cost projections for a new Homer Public Safety Building.

## Partners

This planning effort will actively engage public safety facility users, and local and regional residents, including:

- City of Homer Fire Department
- City of Homer Police Department
- Public Safety Building Committee

## Benefits

This phase of study is a valuable first step in:

- Educating the broader community about deficiencies in Homer's existing police and fire facilities and related costs;
- Exploring future building and site options and possible costs using a transparent, open public process; and
- Developing a realistic plan as a community for ensuring we have the facilities we need to support essential life and safety services into the future.

## We Need Your Input!

Once a space needs assessment is completed late this summer, three public open houses will be held to present findings, ask for community feedback, and discuss options:

- Meeting #1 - Project Need and Site Criteria (target date **August 19**, TBA)
- Meeting #2 - Site Selection Rankings and Preliminary Design Concept (target date **September 30**, TBA)
- Meeting #3 Refined Design Concept (target date **November 2**, TBA)

To learn about public involvement opportunities, or for more information about this effort, contact the City of Homer:

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