



# 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 emergency service model."*

## Project Need

Homer's Fire and Police Services are vital to the safety and health of our community. Adequate and safe working environments show our respect for the public servants who provide these services, and at the same time, reduce local vulnerability to emergencies and risk.

The purpose of considering a new facility at this time is to address these issues and our aging facilities' deficiencies, including:

- 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 risks;
- Lack of storage for police evidence, equipment, and vehicles; and
- Poor conditions for supporting modern electronic and communication systems.

## Why Now?

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.

Fully renovating these outdated facilities so they comply with modern, energy efficient standards is cost-prohibitive compared with new construction. Moreover, Police and Fire have limited space for expansion on their current sites and need room to grow.

Thus, it is critical to take steps now toward a long-term solution that ensures adequate levels of service in the future and takes advantage of cost efficiencies in co-locating the fire and police station together.

## Preliminary Concept Design

The City is exploring options for designing and constructing an up-to-date combined facility for Police and Fire, specifically tailored to local needs and resources. The City has hired a consultant team including USKH (now Stantec), Loren Berry Architect and Cornerstone General Contractors using a General Contractor Construction Manager approach for cost savings and better value.

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.

This process will actively engage public safety facility users, local residents, and a City Council appointed Public Safety Building Committee in a transparent public process for developing a realistic building concept plan and weighing site options.

## We Need Your Input!

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

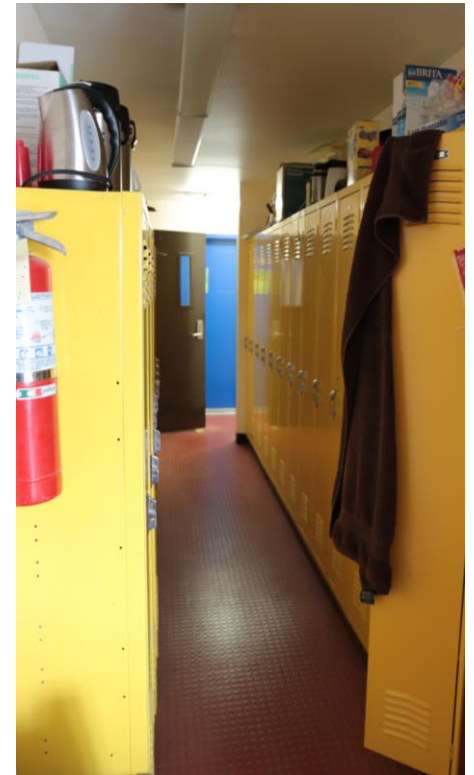
- Meeting #1 - Project Need and Site Criteria (target date **September**, TBA)
- Meeting #2 - Site Selection Rankings and Preliminary Design Concept (target date **October**, TBA)
- Meeting #3 Refined Design Concept (target date **November**, TBA)

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

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3575 Heath Street, Homer 99603

# City of Homer Police Station DEFICIENCIES

- Extremely cramped work areas
- Poor design causes efficiency problems
- Escape attempt issues due to poor layout
- Lack of evidence storage/lab space
- No separation between staff work areas and prisoner through-traffic
- No secure service counter window
- HVAC system routes from jail cells to dispatch risking passage of airborne disease
- Vehicle exhaust enters work areas
- Premature failure of expensive equipment because of poor ventilation
- Regularly overfilling the jail cells
- Communication/computer system issues and limitations due to building age



# City of Homer Fire Station DEFICIENCIES

- Outgrown facility for today's needs with no room to expand for future needs.
- Cramped work areas, limited storage
- Premature wear of expensive equipment and vehicles stored outside with slower winter response times
- Diesel exhaust emissions indoors causing lung health issues among staff
- No OSHA compliant biohazard decontamination/cleaning area
- Existing bays are too short for standard size fire apparatus requiring expensive modifications
- Walls are rotting indoors from water trapped indoors
- Floor is unable to sustain weight of apparatus and cracking throughout
- Not enough room for volunteers to stay overnight during duty

