

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for the Proposed Public Safety Building, Williamsburg, MA

Q20. Why is the new proposed Public Safety building so expensive?

A. Historical data across the commonwealth will show that new public safety facilities will cost anywhere between 400 and 550 dollars per square foot. There are countless factors; however, the largest drivers of costs are usually related to site preparation, size of the building, mechanical and electrical systems, and special equipment and technology. In addition, any publicly funded project is subject to Massachusetts prevailing wage labor rates. Prevailing wage rates can be 30-35% more than what would be expected in private industry.

Regarding the current new public safety building design, it has been and will continue to be the objective of the committee, the OPM, and the design team to maintain a modest, simple and affordable building package without sacrificing longevity, quality or appearance. The building will be designed without elaborate electrical and lighting control systems, without highly advanced mechanical system controls, without luxurious materials, and without anything that does not support the operations and safety of its users.