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Future-Proofing Safety in Waukeee

Construction Underway for New Public Safety Hub

Waukeee, IA – April 5, 2024 - The City of Waukeee marked a significant milestone with the groundbreaking ceremony for its new Public Safety building. Positioned on the current western edge of Waukeee at NW 20th Street (T Avenue) and Douglas Parkway, the new facility is a crucial addition to meet the safety needs for the rapidly evolving Waukeee community.

The Police and Fire Departments have outgrown the current public safety building, which will be retained as a secondary fire station to support continued quick response times for fire and EMS calls. The new facility includes room to house the additional firefighters, paramedics, EMTs and police officers the City will hire in the years to come to keep pace with a growing population and expanding commercial landscape.

"The new Public Safety building is a significant investment that represents the Waukeee's continued commitment to the well-being of our residents and public safety teams," said Mayor Courtney Clarke. "This exceptional new facility will provide our first responders with the resources they need to keep our community safe."

OPN Architects, Sidekick Development and Ryan Companies US, Inc. worked closely with City of Waukeee leaders to create a building that incorporates modern amenities, advanced technology and design to support the critical work and well-being of first responders.

Key features of the Public Safety building include:

- Distinct but connected spaces for Fire, EMS and Police departments, allowing for enhanced coordination and efficiency in emergency response efforts
- Expanded space for critical investigations and state of the art evidence storage to preserve integrity of investigations
- Training facilities to ensure first responders are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle any situation
- Community space to host large scale regional training and coordination
- Flexibility for future expansion as the departments grow

Sustainability was a top priority in the design process, from environmental management to employee well-being. Solar panels and geothermal heating will leverage renewable energy resources and minimize environmental impact. A robust stormwater management system will manage rainwater runoff and improve water quality with bioswales, native plantings, and a

large retention pond that can double as a recreational feature for the public and a water rescue training spot.

“The team applied design strategies that maximize flexibility and adaptability while supporting the most efficient long-term operations for the city,” said Danielle Hermann, principal, OPN Architects. “Equally important, the design prioritizes the mental and physical health of our first responders, so they have a building that will serve and protect them while they do the same for our community.”

Natural light will fill the building's interior, creating a bright and inviting space for employees and guests. Indoor and outdoor gathering spaces have been integrated into the design, along with a fitness room to support the wellness of staff members working long shifts. A large lobby along with the training rooms will support community engagement programs and events, such as Citizens Academy, Safety City, CPR classes and Public Safety Day.

Ryan Companies US, Inc. will serve as the construction manager for the project. Ryan is a national commercial real estate solutions provider with offices in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. It is anticipated that construction of the new facility will take 18 months with public safety staff moving into the building in summer 2025. The project is expected to cost \$43.5 million.

“This project goes beyond the enhancement of safety and well-being in the Waukee community,” said Matt Hillis, vice president of construction operations, Ryan Companies. “It also represents local investment and job growth in a prominent, community-focused city that will benefit meaningfully from these resources. We're proud to play a role in creating a place where people will thrive.”

Project details:

- Location: 815 NW 20th Street (intersection of NW 20th Street (T Avenue) and Douglas Parkway)
- Site construction start: October 2023, which includes improvements to NW 20th Street (T Avenue), Douglas Parkway and the Raccoon River Valley Trail
- Building Project Start Date April 1, 2024
- Anticipated project completion: July 2025
- Building is 90,216 square feet (18,700 for indoor parking for Police vehicles and Fire apparatus) on a 29-acre site
- Learn more at [Waukee.org/PublicSafetyBuilding](https://www.waukee.org/PublicSafetyBuilding)

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The City of Waukee is a thriving community in the heart of Iowa that offers a welcoming atmosphere, high quality schools, excellent municipal services and robust public amenities. Recognized as the fastest growing (large) city in Iowa, Waukee is home to 29,167 residents. The City is dedicated to economic development and expanding business opportunities, including the creation of the mixed-use development, [Kettlestone](https://www.waukee.org/Kettlestone). For more information, visit [Waukee.org](https://www.waukee.org).