

## Edmonton Police Service – Northwest Campus

### Recommendation:

That the November 25, 2011, Edmonton Police Service report 2011CF8388 be received for information.

### Report Summary

**This report outlines the Edmonton Police Service's proposal to combine a new Divisional Station, an Arrest Processing Unit and a Training Facility into one complex in the northwest quadrant of the city.**

### Report

In 2008, City Council approved \$8 million for the purchase of land and preliminary design for a new police station in northwest Edmonton. In 2011, an additional \$3 million was transferred to this project. A parcel of land was identified for the facility in early 2011 but was subsequently sold to a private sector purchaser.

Also in 2008, capital projects for the renovation of the Arrest Processing Unit and the construction of a Training Facility were put forward but remained unfunded.

While work continued on planning for the Northwest station, the priority for the Arrest Processing Unit (commonly known as the downtown cells) increased significantly. Constructed in 1982 as part of the Police Headquarters building, the Arrest Processing Unit accommodates prisoners under arrest until they can be transferred to the

Remand Centre. The Unit is now frequently at or over capacity. A business case review concluded that renovations would not alleviate the conditions and that a new facility was required to improve conditions for both prisoners and staff.

Edmonton Police Services has also been seeking a specialized Training Facility to provide training for new recruits and on-going mandatory and elective training for staff. The lease on the current facility in Griesbach expires in 2014 and, while options like surplus school buildings were considered, it became evident that police training is not a compatible activity within a residential area.

Earlier this year, the City's Building and Landscape Services Branch was asked to review the feasibility of combining these three facility requirements into one building. Based on their estimates, the economies of scale of constructing one facility that will deliver these three functional needs would result in cost avoidance of approximately \$30 million – the equivalent of the construction costs of a single standalone facility.

The combined facility is expected to cost \$81 million. \$11 million is approved within the current 2009-11 budget. In the upcoming capital budget cycle, an additional \$25 million is required to commence construction. Due to the timing of this work, the balance of the project costs -- \$45 million -- would not be required until the 2015-2017 capital budget cycle.

Building these three facilities at one time has several advantages. A smaller overall footprint would require less land

than three separate facilities. There is an expectation that ongoing maintenance and operating costs could be reduced by 30% over three single sites. Other efficiencies include synergies on the fit-up costs for equipment, furniture, technology and community spaces.

A new Northwest Division Station will assist the Edmonton Police Service in providing an appropriate and equitable level of service across the city through a geographic re-balancing of resources. It will also significantly improve performance in meeting a seven-minute response time for Priority 1 calls. Additionally, the Provincial Government's new Remand Centre is set to open in northwest Edmonton in 2013, and locating an Arrest Processing Unit in close proximity is a sensible option. Consideration is now being given to turning the existing Arrest Processing Unit, in the basement of Police Headquarters, into a temporary holding facility for intoxicated individuals.

Edmonton Police Service is working closely with the City's Corporate Properties Branch to identify suitable locations for the building and are currently examining options in the Rampart and Goodridge areas.

The Edmonton Police Commission has identified the Northwest Campus as the top priority for Edmonton Police Services growth projects.

### **Corporate Outcomes**

- The Way we Grow – Improved Urban Form

- The Way We Green – Efficient Use of Land; Higher Building Environmental Standards
- The Way We Live – Towards a Safer City of Edmonton.

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

\$11 million of approved funds are available for the purchase of land and design of the facility. An additional \$25 million is required for construction during the 2012-14 three year capital budget and a further \$45 million in the 2015-17 capital budget for completion.

Lease payments for the existing Griesbach facility and other police training spaces (\$460,000/year) will be applied to the operating costs of the new facility. Based on the current operating model, the new facility may require an additional 51 employees by 2016.

### **Legal Implications**

The Edmonton Police Services has legal obligations under Part XVI of the Criminal Code and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to have suitable facilities to house arrested individuals until the Edmonton Police Services is able to discharge its legal obligations and either release or deliver the individuals to the appropriate authorities.

Pursuant to Section 53(1) of the *Alberta Police Act*, the municipality has an obligation to provide an adequate lock-up facility.