

Costs unveiled for proposed police facility

The proposed police facility could cost the city of Salem between \$68.7 and \$81.4 million — but it depends.

Twelve different price tags were presented to city councilors at a work session Monday night.

[At last month's work session](#), the council narrowed down the location options to the area south of the Salem Public Library, known as the Leslie site, and the O'Brien Auto Group space. The council asked city staff to come back with numbers concerning how tweaking the design would affect the cost.

For each of the two locations, councilors were presented with several cost scenarios: one for the full 150,000-square-foot facility that consultants are recommending; one for the facility without the 911 call center; one with a reduced estimate of the number of officers needed over the next 30 years; one without the call center and with a reduced officer estimate; one eliminating space for any new staff positions; and one eliminating the call center and any new staffers.

For the Leslie site, the estimates range from \$68.7 to \$79.4 million. For the O'Brien Auto Group site, at Commercial and Division streets NE, the range is \$70.6 to \$81.4 million, according to the staff report. For each, the full 150,000-square-foot option is the most expensive.

"This is a large number, no question," Jake Davis, consultant with DLR Group, told the councilors. He said the difference in cost is "statistically not tremendously different between the sites."

At the start of the meeting, Warren Bednarz, Ward 7 councilor, declared an actual conflict of interest, because one of his family members owns property on the Leslie site. He refrained from commenting the rest of the meeting.

The council has been working to find a larger, seismically stable headquarters for the Salem Police Department since 2007. The goal is to make a decision before spring.

The city aims to put a levy on the 2016 ballot to pay for the cost of the facility.

If the full 150,000-square-foot facility is chosen, homeowners with assessed property value of \$200,000 would pay \$8.86 a month for the Leslie site or \$9.08 for the O'Brien

site.

Councilman Brad Nanke, Ward 3, asked if any polling had been done about the facility recently. Steve Powers, city manager, said he could let him know by the end of the week when poll numbers could be available.

“It all comes down to what will the public be willing to pay,” Nanke said.

Community members may make their input known at a public hearing, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 29. The city council will not vote at that meeting.

Email khessel@statesmanjournal.com, call (503) 399-6743 or follow on Twitter @KaellenHessel

Cost options

Option	Leslie	O'Brien
Full recommendation	\$79,439,000	\$81,397,000
No 911 center	\$73,622,000	\$75,568,000
Reduce staff growth estimate	\$76,978,000	\$78,931,000
No 911 center, reduce staff growth	\$71,161,000	\$73,103,000
Eliminate staff growth	\$74,515,000	\$76,469,000
No 911 center or staff growth	\$68,700,000	\$70,640,000

Source: City of Salem

To read the full staff report about the police facility, go to <http://bit.ly/1WFhe14>.