

# New Salem police facility price shaves around \$20 million from previous ballot measure

[Jonathan Bach](#)



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Photo tour of current Salem Police Department facility

Salem police officers may be getting closer to a new HQ, and after much deliberation, city councilors may have landed on a final price-tag for it: \$61.8 million.

City councilors could vote next Monday to put the ask to voters for a May 16 election.

The option would shave approximately \$20 million from the \$82 million measure for a 148,000-square-foot facility voters rejected only months ago.

Other proposals have since come in at 115,000 square feet and 127,000 square feet. Those facilities would have cost \$63.9 million and \$69.1 million, respectively. They would have cost taxpayers either \$56 or \$62 a year. That's an [estimate](#) based on a \$200,000 home.

It's unclear what the new taxpayer rate would be. The new facility would need to be built around a smaller budget.

"We have a budget, we don't have a square-footage," said Kenny Larson, city spokesman. Earlier discussion included dropping the 911 center that had been part of last year's proposal.

Councilors on Tuesday discussed pushing seismic upgrades for the Salem Public Library to a November vote.

"I hope ... there's a real understanding that no matter what happens with the police facility, the library is going out in November," Mayor Chuck Bennett said.

The move triggered backlash from local blogger Brian Hines, who was among those against last year's ballot measure.

"There will be organized opposition to the second-try bond measure," Hines said.

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