



Bexar County Commissioners Court

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Commissioners Court, Sheriff take next steps to create patrol substations

Additional action taken to improve Adult Detention Center complex

Commissioners Court on Tuesday, Nov. 17, unanimously approved the issuance of a request for qualifications for an architect to design two patrol substations for the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. The new substations, in East and West Bexar County, will be located close to the community the Sheriff's Office serves, with immediate access to major highway systems and near high call response areas.

The Eastside substation will be located on a 51-acre site on Rocket Lane with easy access to Loop 1604, I-35 and I-10; the Westside station will be built on county-owned land on Cagnon Road with direct access to Highway 90 and Loop 1604. The two substations will be the first "purpose-built" facilities for the Sheriff's district patrol and property crimes investigators. In the past, Sheriff's Office operations have been adapted to temporary or leased spaces, including a vacant elementary school.

Early this year, the four northern-most patrol districts were moved to a location just inside Loop 1604 on the north side. That move alone has saved nearly \$300,000 and reduced response times to emergency calls county-wide by almost 20 percent. The remaining patrol units are located in four portable buildings in South Bexar County on Farm Road.

"Today, as we enter the architectural design phase, we're entering the home stretch to seeing permanent patrol substations become a reality for the Bexar County Sheriff's Office," said Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau. "The bottom line is the location of these substations will significantly improve response times, reduce cost and enhance our ability to keep Bexar County safe. This means less time on the road just getting to patrol districts and more time in our operational districts, responding to calls for service — and that's great news for Bexar County taxpayers."

In a separate vote, Commissioners Court unanimously approved a multi-phase \$32 million plan to move different Sheriff's Office functions and programs, renovate existing space, and construct new buildings within the Adult Detention Center Campus on Comal Street.

"These are two major projects that will help improve the safety of our community," County Judge Nelson Wolff said. "With the substations we have the opportunity to reduce response times and put the deputies in facilities where they can work more closely with the communities they serve. The adult detention improvements will provide more space for the Sheriff to provide services to inmates and help reduce recidivism."

The plan includes vacating a one-story structure at the ADC and turning it over to GEO to house federal inmates, constructing a new 512-bed unit of "program-focused" beds, and building a new work release unit at the southern edge of the complex close to public transportation. A two-story structure at the ADC Annex will be renovated to accommodate all female inmates and add space for special management beds, youthful offenders, a mental health unit, detox unit and other special programs.

The final piece of the plan will relocate the Sheriff's administration offices from the main jail to the Adult Probation Building across Comal Street. The entire plan is expected to be complete by the end of 2017.

"I'm pleased to see Commissioners Court approve moving forward with changes to the Bexar County Adult Detention Center. Properly managing our resources, including our facilities, is what Bexar County taxpayers expect and deserve, and at times that means reorganizing," Sheriff Pamerleau said. "Establishing the Bexar County Sheriff's Office Complex, including the Adult Detention Center is a positive step to further enhancing public safety for the surrounding community."

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