

WAUKESHA COMMON COUNCIL

CIP Police Department remodel increases by \$7.2 million

Council approves final 2021-25 capital improvement plan budget

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WAUKESHA — The long-anticipated Waukesha Police Department remodel has been approved within the 2021 Capital Improve-

ment Plan (CIP) budget by the Common Council — and has prompted a \$7.2 million increase in the budget a couple weeks before its final approval, the project now totaling \$19.7 million.

The department project was originally presented to

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Station

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Common Council members in March, initially as a request for a new evidence room, before further project renovations were presented. Project needs center around space constraints — a report drafted by the department cites the need for more lockers and the space to house them; an additional conference/training room, the addition of a patrol sergeant's office, relocating the accident investigators' office, an HVAC system upgrade, relocating the drug evidence room, cubicle replacements, carpet replacement, additional storage and increased garage space.

The cost of the police department remodel changed from the initial \$12.5 million — which was originally estimated at the first Finance Committee CIP budget review. At the Finance Committee meeting Sept. 22, however, a presentation revealed necessary changes, mostly related to relocating things within the building, such as the sprinkler system and HVAC system.

Bill Robertson with Robertson Ryan and Associates presented the changes

along with more solid designs on what the renovations will look like. Robertson said they resulted from accommodating an increased number of female officers, expanded programs, additional equipment and the need to meet “best practices.”

The final design of the building increased the size from about 53,000 square feet to just under 81,000 square feet.

The \$19.7 million police station remodel is broken up into 2021 and 2022, with about \$6.5 million in 2022. The Saratoga Lake Project was also moved back one year to 2023, to lessen the impact on the CIP in 2022, after a motion was made by Alderman Rick Lemke.

The CIP budget book outlines the 2021-25 CIP, which includes: \$146.7 million in general fund major capital projects, \$132.6 million in enterprise fund major capital projects, \$7 million in general fund equipment purchases, \$2.5 million in enterprise fund general equipment purchases, \$18.2 million in general fleet purchases and \$3.7 million in enterprise fund fleet purchases.

2021 projects include the police station rehab and remodel at \$19.7 million (about \$6.5 million of which will be utilized in 2022), the



File photo

The Waukesha Police Department, 1901 Delafield St.

library renovation costing \$4.1 million, major street projects (North Prairie Avenue, Sentry Drive and Sunset Avenue) costing \$8.3 million, minor street projects costing \$1.8 million, resurfacing projects costing \$3 million and flood mitigation projects costing \$950,000.

City Administrator Kevin Lahner said the police department has been requesting a review of their space needs for at least five years. Lahner said there was discussion about putting off items within the project; however, that ultimately would not be costly or efficient in the long run.

Changes also approved include an amendment to increase the sidewalk project from \$200,000 to \$500,000 in 2021.

Alderman Aaron Perry also made a motion to remove the \$70,000 audio/visual portion of the City Hall project from the budget, stating the backup meeting room could instead be virtual. Perry's motion was approved and passed.

On Tuesday, the council approved the 2021 CIP budget with no further revisions. Council meetings are available to view live online at www.waukesha.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.