

Frequently Asked Questions

Public Building

Q. Why do we need a new building?

A: There is no question that the Panora EMS has outgrown their current space. As you can see with EMS director Joe Hupp's statement, they can't even keep all their equipment in one place. When the City closed the Cline building, the Panora Police Department was moved to one room in the back of the current city hall building. They do not have enough space to store their equipment nor do they have proper facilities to meet with the public or store their records. While the city offices spaces were sufficient, it made sense to the committee to keep City Hall with the departments that they work closely with. In addition, City Council currently meets at the library and this new building would give adequate space for not only council meetings but other public meetings. The new building will allow the City to put the current building up for sale and if it sells, use the profits to build a shop at the current City south yard. By doing this a property can go back on the tax rolls, while minimizing the property the city owns and maintains.

Q: What is the cost for the proposed public building?

A: The estimated cost to construct the building is between \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million. As a point of reference, the Library cost \$1.3 million to construct. The building committee and the council is working diligently right now to make sure the proposed building meets all the current needs of the departments as well as plans for the future. The building will also be designed to fit within the historic downtown standards that the council has previously passed.

Q: How will the city pay for the new building?

A: Currently, the City is working on a finance plan that will not involve raising property taxes or utility rates. Local Option Sales Tax money, TIF money, and revenues from the departments that are already collected, as well as reserve money will be used to fund a possible loan.