

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Council Meeting: January 20, 2026

Subject: Police Facility Site Considerations

Presenter: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Summary:

An update on the Brookings Police Department site evaluation is provided following the November engagement meeting and subsequent public input. During this meeting, community members shared feedback related to traffic congestion, neighborhood and park impacts, long-term growth needs, and proximity to schools. Staff considered these comments and conducted additional analysis, re-evaluation criteria, infrastructure availability, operational needs, and fiscal responsibility. Based on this refined analysis, staff is presenting site considerations for Council determination.

Background:

In November, the City Council and staff held a neighborhood presentation to discuss a potential location for a future Brookings Police Department facility. Discussion included an overview of the need for a new facility and preliminary site analysis. During the public engagement process, several recurring themes emerged. Community members expressed concerns about the perceived impacts of traffic congestion, particularly near existing residential areas and community facilities. There were also concerns related to the potential loss of parkland and prior public investment in recreational spaces, as well as whether certain sites could accommodate long-term expansion needs. In addition, questions were raised about the interpretation of police operations, including unauthorized individuals, and how a police facility operates daily.

Staff and Council carefully considered these comments as part of the re-evaluation process for the 22 previously identified sites. This feedback directly informed the re-evaluation, with greater emphasis placed on risk avoidance, site suitability, future growth capacity, infrastructure readiness, and minimizing unintended community and neighborhood impacts.

Key requirements for a new facility include a site of approximately 3.2 to 3.5 acres, adequate utilities and transportation access, minimal environmental or development risk, and the ability to support future expansion. Staff also considered fiscal responsibility, including opportunities to reduce costs.

Based on this additional analysis, staff is presenting updated findings and a recommended site for Council consideration at the January 20th Study Session.

Locating the facility on City-owned land offers meaningful cost savings and reduces development uncertainty. Staff's recommendation is a location that best meets the established criteria while balancing public input, operational needs, and long-term value to the community.

Legal Consideration:

None

Strategic Plan Consideration:

- Fiscal Responsibility – The City of Brookings will responsibly manage resources through transparency, efficiency, equity, and exceptional customer service.
- Safe, Inclusive, Connected Community – The City of Brookings will create an environment for inclusive programs, gathering places, and events where the community can safely live, work and come together to participate in opportunities for learning, recreation and enjoyment.
- Service and Innovation Excellence – The City of Brookings will provide an accessible environment committed to ongoing innovation and outstanding service through listening and engagement.

Financial Consideration:

The City has set aside \$18.5 million toward the estimated \$25 million Fire and Police Facility project, and any additional costs would significantly increase long-term debt obligations and require future budget reductions.

Supporting Documentation:

Presentation