City Council Agenda Memo

From: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Council Meeting: January 27, 2026

Subject: Resolution 26-008: Police Facility Site Determination

Presenter: Paul Briseno, City Manager

Summary:
The Brookings Police Department's public site evaluation process included many site examinations, public input, and the January 20th Study Session. Prior public presentations revealed community feedback on traffic congestion, neighborhood and park impacts, future expansion needs, and proximity to schools, which were fully considered and incorporated into the additional staff analysis. Staff refined and re-evaluated criteria to further emphasize risk avoidance, infrastructure readiness, and fiscal responsibility. Staff recommends the Council take action to commence development of the Dacotah Bank Center or Wiese site as the location for the Brookings Police Department.

Background:
In November, the City held a neighborhood presentation to discuss a potential location for a future Brookings Police Department facility, including the need for a new facility. Through this public engagement process, several consistent themes emerged, including concerns related to perceived traffic congestion, potential impacts to neighborhoods and parkland investments, long-term space for facility expansion, and proximity to schools. Community members also raised questions about police operations and unauthorized individuals, as well as the day-to-day functions of a police facility.

The city carefully considered this feedback as part of a comprehensive re-evaluation of the 22 previously identified sites. Public input directly informed additional analysis and the re-evaluation criteria, emphasizing risk avoidance, site suitability, future growth capacity, infrastructure readiness, and minimizing unintended community and neighborhood impacts.

Key requirements for a new police facility include a site of approximately 3.2 to 3.5 acres, adequate utilities, minimal environmental or development risk, and the ability to accommodate future expansion. Fiscal responsibility was also a critical consideration, including opportunities to reduce overall project costs and limit long-term financial impacts to the City.

Following the January 20th Study Session, during which the City Council considered all information presented, the Wiese property is recommended by staff as the next location of the Brookings Police Department. The site, located east of Interstate 29 and north or

east of the Marketplace Development, is the preferred site for the future Brookings Police Department facility. The Dacotah Bank Center or Wiese property best meets the established evaluation criteria, offers meaningful cost savings through the use of City-owned land, and balances public input, operational needs, and long-term value to the community. Establishing a satellite office within the downtown Fire Station, along with a sector-based patrol approach, directly responds to public input by improving law enforcement's visibility and accessibility while ensuring a balanced, community-focused police presence throughout the city.

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 saved $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:
Resolution
Location Map