

# GET INVOLVED!

## Planning for police and fire facilities.

- Northwood’s police station, fire headquarters, and fire substation are inadequate.
- This impacts public safety, liability for the Town, and the ability to recruit personnel.
- The Town needs your help with identifying the best solution for this challenge. This includes evaluating the number of buildings, type, and location of possible facilities.

### Planning Process Engagement Schedule:

- Jan 2023 Initial outreach + web presence
- April 2023 Public input survey
- June 2023 Public listening session
- Aug 2023 Initial draft proposal
- Dec 2023 Final public input + info packet
- Mar 2024 Voter Decision



Ridge Fire Substation



Narrows Fire Headquarters



Police Station





# NORTHWOOD FACILITIES PLANNING

## The Fire and Rescue Department

Narrows Fire Headquarters: 85 Main Street

### Primary Facility Deficiencies:

- Existing space is very tight. Station full beyond capacity. No space for additional or larger apparatus. Space constraints limit apparatus design.
- Low (6 ft) ceiling height in the Chief's office and mezzanine.
- Lack of ADA accessibility, private areas to hold meetings, and office space.
- Expensive breathing equipment requires a clean storage space. No suitable space for personal protective clothing.
- Lack of suitable accommodations for staff, with no heating in bunk room
- The building has only one restroom and no sprinkler system.
- Roof requires replacement, 1984 septic system shows signs of failure, vinyl siding is brittle and failing.

Ridge Fire Substation: 499 First NH Turnpike

### Primary Facility Deficiencies:

- Built in 1955 dangerously close to Route 4. The building has been hit. Apparatus have to cross into the road to back into bays.
- Station serves as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Not an ideal location due to proximity of the Elementary School.
- Bay doors are not big enough for standard ambulance. Modification of the building and vehicle was required for a new ambulance to fit.
- Medical supplies stored in a closet right off the bays, not the most sanitary.
- Only 1 bathroom means more time firefighters are exposed to carcinogens when returning from a fire.
- No space for a dryer or a gear room.
- Most bays too small for trucks coming from other communities to support mutual aid.

## The Police Department

1020 First New Hampshire Turnpike

### Primary Facility Deficiencies:

- Security and safety a major concern.
- No sally port or controlled entry way.
- Evidence room is a deadbolted closet.
- Station lacks a holding cell.
- No security in building, holding area has quick access to building and exit.
- No fire suppression in the 3-bay garage, where file storage is located.
- Conference room serves as an interrogation room and has no soundproofing.
- No privacy is a liability issue when juveniles are present.
- Only 1 restroom for public and staff, often out of service.

### BACKGROUND

- 1980s: Improved fire facilities needed.
- 2007, 2012 & 2019: Town's Hazard Mitigation Plans recognize need for a new public safety complex.
- 2018: Public safety committee formed to address the public safety and liability concerns associated with the inadequate facilities.
- 2019: Public safety committee put forth two warrant articles to raise funds to purchase land and construct a public safety complex. Neither passed.
- 2020: Town created an informational [video](#) (posted on Town's website) to highlight some of the major concerns at the police and fire stations.
- Late 2022: Town contracted with consultants to assist with engaging the public in identifying possible locations for new facilities and options to expand existing facilities.
- Throughout 2023: Town will work with the community to find the best solutions to this challenge. YOUR input is needed. All are encouraged to get involved.

**The goal of the outreach effort is to identify the best solution to the facility needs of the Town's first responders.**

