

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.

