

**ESCAMBIA COUNTY GUN FIRING RANGE & PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRE
TRAINING COMPLEX**

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM STATEMENT

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A. Executive Summary

This is a preliminary programming statement for the Escambia County Gun Firing Range & Public Safety and Fire Training Center. The intent is for this to be a multi-agency facility that can also be utilized as a regional training center. Interviews have been conducted for a needs assessment of facilities required to achieve the training goals and objectives of the Escambia County- Sheriff's Office, Escambia County Fire Department, Escambia County Emergency Management Services, Public Safety and Pensacola Junior College. These goals and objectives provide the guideline for required training in each of these professional fields.

Contents of this report include an initial assessment of facilities required for the Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Escambia County Fire Rescue, Escambia County Emergency Medical Services, Public Safety and Pensacola Junior College. It includes program information, preliminary budget information to achieve the total facility, required acreage and potential phasing.

Escambia County and Pensacola Junior College are pursuing this project collectively as a joint funded project. The intent is for this facility to be designed as a regional training facility that will provide a state-of-the-art training center available for use by multiple agencies besides the primary end-users. In addition to use by the E.C. Sheriff's Office for Academy Training, it is anticipated that the facility will be utilized by over 29 additional agencies for firearm training courses four times per year at a minimum. There is a desire to bring in even larger training programs. The E.C. Disaster Unit is comprised of 90 agencies which also have potential for training at this facility. The E.C. Parks and Recreation Department also desires that a public firing range be incorporated into the project that can be utilized for Hunter Safety courses.

B. Introduction

The Escambia County Public Safety Training Complex (ECPSTC) will be a regional, multi-agency training complex. It will be used by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office (plus Corrections), Escambia County Fire Rescue (ECFR), Escambia County Emergency Medical Services (ECEMS) and Public Safety, Pensacola Junior College (PJC) and potentially numerous emergency services, public safety, military, and industrial departments from around the region.

These various agencies currently use a variety of training facilities that have been determined to be inadequate and too dispersed throughout the region to provide optimal training. For example:

- Fire uses classroom space in various stations, acquired structures for structure live fire training, the City's drill tower, parking lots for driver training, and various smaller props, such as a forcible entry prop, that are at various stations.
- Sheriff / Corrections hires recruits from the George Stone academy (Escambia County School District), uses Brunson Field and other locations for low speed driver training, the City's drill tower and other structures for rappelling, and an outdoor firing range at the landfill. The police academy will be transitioning from George Stone to Pensacola Junior College (PJC). Based on input from PJC, classroom instruction needs for this part of the program are included.
- PJC has several fire and law enforcement forensics labs, such as an arson lab, computer security lab, sprinkler lab, fire chemistry lab, and instructor development lab, all of which would be desired at the new training complex.
- ECEMS hires recruits from PJC but does not have training facilities. All of their training currently occurs at the Escambia County Public Safety facility on 'W' Street.

The County, PJC, and their potential partners have identified a need for a new public safety training complex that is capable of supporting training for their personnel at a modern, quality facility. It is desirable for the training complex to be located at one site that is remote enough to keep it distant from development but with good road access. The primary objectives for the training complex are:

- To achieve safe, realistic, dependable training for various classes.
- To teach basic and advanced skills for recruits and in-service personnel.
- To have adequate space for multiple classes/agencies to train simultaneously.
- As a longer-term goal, to have a training complex of such quality that outside, regional agencies would be willing to pay to use it, thus offsetting some of the operational and maintenance costs. In addition, a public shooting range and public safety classes, such as driver safety and hunting safety, could also generate revenue.

The purpose of this program is to assess the training needs of ECPSTC and to identify the facilities required to support those training needs. The County has retained the services of DAG Architects, in association with Elliott, LeBoeuf & Associates (EL&A) and McClaren, Wilson & Lawrie (MWL), to write the preliminary program statement, masterplanning and provide AIE design expertise.

On September 22, 2006, DAG Architects and Elliott LeBoeuff & Associates met with County and PJC personnel for a planning session. The group primarily discussed training objectives for Fire, EMS and Public Safety as well as potential facilities that would be needed to meet those objectives, and other administrative aspects of the potential project.

On October 3, 2006, DAG Architects and Escambia County toured the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Tallahassee, Florida to understand the dynamics of a facility that is

utilized by numerous agencies and to review operations and maintenance of a facility that is funded through Tallahassee Community College.

On October 18 & 19, DAG Architects and McClaren Wilson Lawrie (MWL) met with the Escambia County Sheriff's, County personnel and PJC to primarily discuss ECSO and firearm training requirements.

c. Budget Resources

This preliminary program statement will provide a guideline budget for the entire project. The total project resources for Phase I could reach \$20M or more, if the State Department of Education provides a \$10M match to County funds by request through Pensacola Junior College. Currently, the Escambia County Sheriff's Office plans to contribute \$4Million to the project and Escambia County will contribute \$6 Million. The project budget would include construction, design fees, surveys, studies, testing, FF&E (furniture, fixtures and equipment), contingency, inflation, and other soft costs. Part of the purpose of this study is to help define training objectives, budget estimates, and priorities and phasing plans.

There needs to be an operations and maintenance budget for the training complex, including staff salaries and benefits, costs of routine operations (janitorial service, landscaping service, office supplies), minor repairs/maintenance (painting, plumbing, etc.), and major repairs / maintenance (road patching, HVAC repairs, training prop repairs). The County has existing training staff, maintenance personnel, and prison labor available to cover most, if not all, of these items. Maintenance costs are currently \$5.50-\$6.00/sq. ft. for Escambia County to maintain facilities. Corrections may most likely maintain the grounds, but there is also a "cost" associated to provide these services. It is recommended that the costs of these be included in future budgets, to ensure adequate O&M funding when the training complex opens.

C. Operations

This will be a regional training facility that several outside agencies will schedule and pay for use, in addition to Escambia County units, thereby generating revenue. Escambia County and PJC will relocate existing staff to this facility. Some additional staff hires may be required, but most of the required staff is already in place.

Through analysis of the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Tallahassee, FL, and the tour of the facility on October 3, 2006, it is evident that a Director of the Facility will be required. The Director should be someone knowledgeable in training scenarios and training requirements and, preferably, have existing relationships with other outside agencies. A Director that is savvy in communicating and facilitating agreements with multiple agencies will be critical to the success of the complex.

Agreements will be required for a complete understanding of the relationship between PJC and Escambia County relative to recurring maintenance funds, custodial services, facilities maintenance, grounds maintenance, etc. Implications have been made that the Escambia County Prisoner Crew personnel may be utilized to supplement and provide building grounds and grounds maintenance.

It is the intent that this facility will be used for training only and will not have full time departmental staff relocated to the facility. A Range Officer will be required full-time staff at the Public Firing Range. It is Escambia County and PJC's desire for this property to be zoned such that we do not have any encroachment on the range.

E. Benchmark Facilities

A site area analysis of Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy was developed as a comparable model and utilized to verify some assumptions for the site development costs. The core area of the property where all training occurs is 374 acres in comparison to the 420 acres being considered for this project. Percentage of area that is wetland varies slightly. A summary of the PTLEA areas is provided for information only. **See Exhibit "A"**.

Another benchmark facility considered for this project is the Indian River Public Safety and Training Center at Indian River Community College.

F. Current Training Provided

The first preprogramming session began with each user giving a description of the various types of training that they anticipate providing at this training facility.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Basic Training - Firefighter I Training will be provided which is predominantly classroom instruction. Currently, hands-on training is being done at the City of Pensacola tower and in acquired structures and it is anticipated that structures will be provided in this training complex so that "hands-on" training can be provided on the campus. In service training and props at various stations (forceful entry, saws on cutting rebar, etc.) are desired. Driving and EVOC training is done in classrooms with use of Ellyson Industrial Park lots/paving. One fire station with a drafting pit for fire operations will be required in the program. In Service Training - ISO Requirements for 20 hours of training per month.

Firefighter II Training: The Fire Department desires to move into Firefighter II Training minimum standards. They are currently going through Pensacola Junior College for this training now. The City of Pensacola holds the certificate for Firefighter II Training and the Academy goes through PJC.

Airport Fire Training - The Pensacola Regional Airport is covered by the City of Pensacola Fire Department. The City has their own tower, but nothing set-up for live burns. Desires were expressed to have at least one prop for live fire training.

Fire Marshall inspection training - in classroom training.

Live training for extinguishers. natural gas. liquid fires. etc.

Haz Mat and special Ops: Currently do not have any of these props and will be required. A comparative estimate was requested for prefabricated vs. job built props.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE:

Recruit Training is being done at George Stone Academy and will be moved to this new facility.

Law Enforcement Student Training (LEST) - Work/Education program for candidates. Candidates go to school first and then go to the Academy. 28 candidates currently are in the Academy with some taking classes 8 hours per day to fastrack through the program. Some employees are hired first and then sent to education while others are hired and then shadow an officer.

In Service Training: Formerly used Ellyson Field for driving training and currently using Bunsen Field for driving training. The Sheriffs Office does not currently have a high-speed track and officers must to go to Okaloosa-Walton College for use of their track. They will be using a small track at the PJC west campus with very limited training in the near future. A high speed track is desired at this new facility.

Shooting Training: Law Enforcement hold training at the range twice per year and Corrections holds training once per year. The current law enforcement is 388 officers, which should be at 406 Deputy officers. The Range being used currently is adjacent to the Perdido landfill and Parks and Recreation has control of the property at this time. The existing range consists of one 50 yard pistol range for 30 lines. The Rifle range is 150 yards to accommodate 8 shooters. No turning targets.

Tactical Training: The Sheriff's Office uses whatever buildings available for SWAT Team repelling training (City Fire tower, jail, administrative building, etc.). There is not much repelling training offered at this time. Most training is for entry training and some for explosive entry training.

Classroom Instruction: A recent building addition was completed at the Escambia County Sheriff's Office to include 5 classrooms and they are already tight for space. There will be an Officer in Charge, Executive Secretary, several full-time instructors and clerical staff to be moved to this new training facility. A large space is desired with break-out capacity and complete classroom technology. The Sheriffs Office owns a Range 2000 shooting simulator, but currently they are unable to utilize it due to guest occupant in the space. They attempted a driving training simulator,

but did not have success (10-year old machine) and have offered it to the Academy at George Stone. The Shooting simulator has crown air capacity.

Canine Training: Matt Langley Bell property hosts the training and would like to move the Canine Training to one side of this new complex. A small classroom, dog wash and storage area is required for this function.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND ECEMS:

Continuing education is special response, WMD and mass casualty. Based on initial feedback, for the most part, Fire and Law requirements will meet the needs of Public Safety and EMS. Currently, training all occurs at the EC Public Safety Facility and most of that training will remain at that center.

PENSACOLA JUNIOR COLLEGE:

PJC would like to relocate lab classrooms for forensics to the facility as well as a fire investigation and computer forensics for security. Sprinkler and fire chemistry labs would also be relocated to this facility. An instructor development lab with ability to videotape practice demonstrations is desired in the academic portion of the facility.

With the George Stone Police Academy transitioning to PJC, additional classrooms will be required for instruction. Defensive tactics facilities will be shared with Escambia County Sheriff's Office.

OTHER TRAINING/FACILITIES:

A Public Firing Range is desired in the complex which will provide an opportunity for revenue and would create the ability for Parks and Recreation to offer hunter safety courses to the general public. Logistical design elements with separate secure entry into the training complex would be required. Escambia County has already notified adjacent developers about a heavily regulated facility for the public that may have a retail shop included. The understanding at this time is that E.C. Parks and Recreation will operate this portion of the facility.

G. General Information about Training Complex Operations and Anticipated Use

The training complex would be used year-round. The Sheriff's Department needs access around the clock to allow for night training.

The primary function will be training, though other functions, such as sheriff sub-station, fire station, or other emergency services, could be added to the site in the future.