



City of Dover

New Hampshire



Proposed Capital Improvements Program

State of the Current Police Facility 1935-2012



The need for a new police facility has been repeatedly stressed through professional studies; most recently the City of Dover Master Plan and Space Needs study by AG Architects of 2007, as well as the Planning Department/Lassel Architects Space Study of 2001 and the City of Dover Cost Containment study by Bennett Associates of 1993. Additionally the Police Department Strategic Planning Committees of 2012, 2006, and 1997, comprised of citizens, has determined that the need for a new police facility is of the highest priority.

The department suffers with a substandard HVAC system, unresolved problems with ventilation and mold, leaking gray water pipes, electrical issues, ground water incursion, as well as facility security concerns that do not comply with standards of a modern police facility.

The Dover Police Department is physically located in the basement of City Hall, where it has been since 1935. The current fourteen thousand square foot facility clearly lacks space and should be a minimum of 28, 000 square feet. The facility is inadequate, with officers and other employees at work stations in the hallways.

The following photographs and brief explanations are intended to provide the reader with an overview of the condition of the current City of Dover Police facility.

History of Police Facility Location

1892 - August 1933: Police Headquarters located in the basement level of City Hall. The building was destroyed by fire.

August 1933 – 1935: Police Headquarters temporary located in the “store of Frank Davis on Locust Street.”

1935 – Present: Police Headquarters located in the basement level of City Hall.

Other City Facilities Constructed Since 1935

Dover High School

Dover High School expansion

Woodman Park School

Woodman Park School expansion

Garrison Elementary School

Garrison Elementary School expansion

Horne Street School

Horne Street School expansion

Dover Middle School

North-End Fire Station

South End-Fire Station

South-End Fire Station expansion

Mast Road Community Services Facility

Middle Road Waste Water Treatment Facility

Ice Arena

Ice Arena expansion

Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool

Butterfield Gymnasium / Indoor Pool

McConnell Center

North-End Water Tower project

River Street Waste Water Treatment Facility

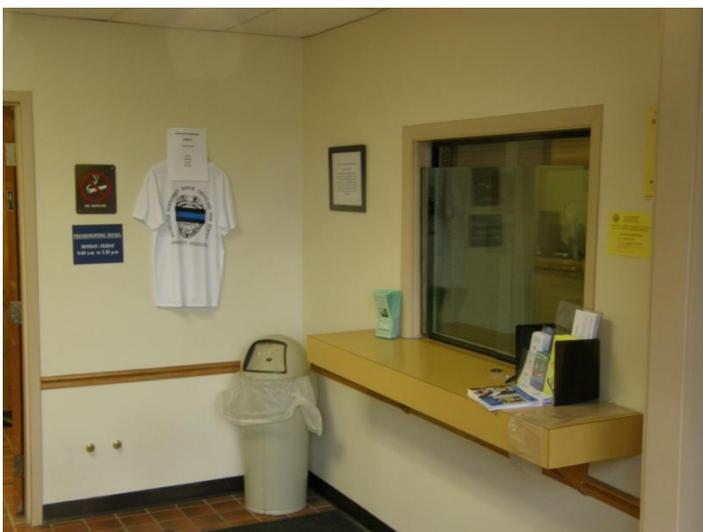
Multiple major road construction projects

A modern police facility should contain features that are not part of the current Dover Police facility, for example:

- Handicap accessibility
- Private report intake area
- Community / multi-use room
- Public restrooms
- Proper ventilation
- Proper electrical
- Proper heating / air conditioning
- Room for shredding paper with adequate ventilation
- Weapons cleaning area with proper ventilation
- Secure / fortified reception area
- Secure / fortified ground floor windows
- Roll Call / Briefing room
- Evidence storage area to house all evidence on site
- Adequate holding cells
- Intoxilizer area separate from general booking room
- Private office space for command level staff
- Sufficient records / supply storage areas
- Modern locker rooms
- Adequate showers facilities
- Sufficient number of restrooms
- Kitchenette / Break room
- Indoor vehicle storage for large specialty vehicles such as the Crime Scene Services truck.

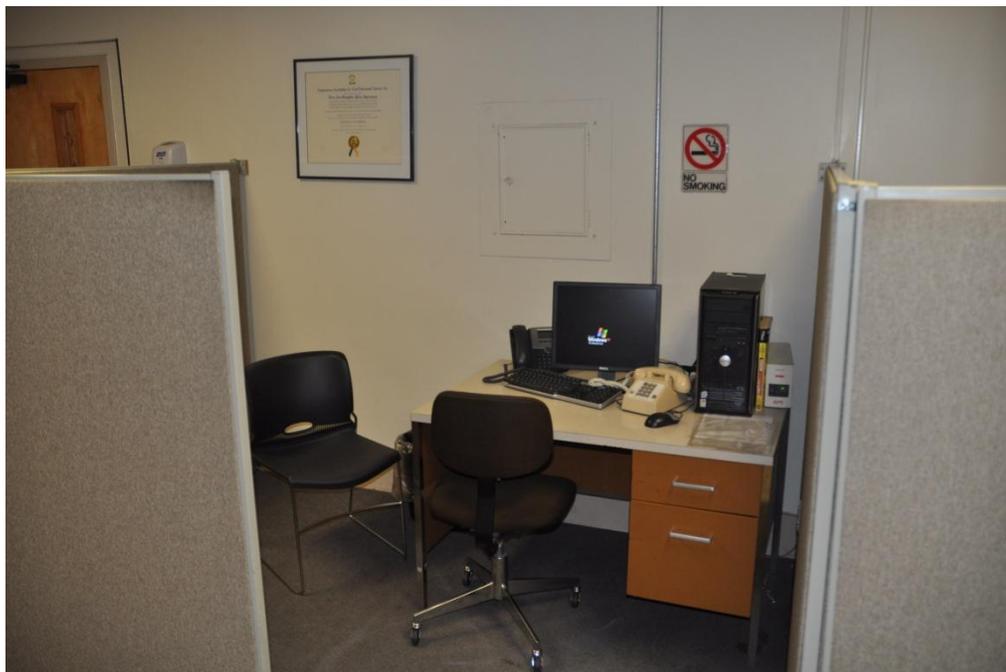
Lobby

The lobby has no temperature control resulting in the room becoming extremely hot in summer months and an inconsistent temperature in winter months. Both the Records Bureau and Dispatch windows are not soundproofed or fortified.



Report Intake Area

The area used by officers to meet with crime victims and take reports from citizens consists of two adjacent cubicles located in a hallway immediately inside the station. The area provides no privacy and requires that citizens enter the secured area of the station.



Records Bureau Office

The one room office is cluttered with six work stations with inadequate privacy.



Interior view of unfortified window in Records Bureau office



Exterior view of unfortified windows in Records Bureau office



Division Commanders' Office

The department has two division commanders who hold the rank of captain. The captains share an office resulting in the inability for private personnel meetings.



Parking Bureau Office

The Parking Bureau office is a single room approximately 10'x12'. This is the office of the parking manager as well as a work and storage area for all parking enforcement officers. Additionally, the office houses the only outgoing fax machine for all department use. The office has no ventilation, heat or air conditioning.



Special Investigations Bureau Office

The one room office contains six work stations. The area is used for detectives conducting major criminal investigations, to include extremely sensitive cases such as sexual assaults. The area does not allow for private or quiet telephone conversations.



Interview / Interrogation Rooms

The department has two interview and interrogation rooms. The rooms can only be accessed by passing through the Special Investigations Bureau office or the secure booking area.



Evidence Storage

The facility has three separate evidence storage rooms within the building and one room in an off-site location. All three evidence storage rooms within the building are at maximum capacity.



The department's evidence submission area, which consists of converted coin operated lockers, is located in a stairwell leading to City Hall. The stairwell is also used to store paper and other office supplies.

Evidence Storage – "A room". The room is used to store all narcotics and currency.





Evidence Storage – “B-Room” is used to house smaller items of evidence.

Evidence Storage “C-Room” is used for longer term storage, such as evidence in homicide cases that need to be held for indefinite periods of time. The room is also used to store all seized firearms.



Shift Commanders' area

The department has six shift commanders holding the rank of either lieutenant or sergeant. The six share three desks separated from a hallway with a half wall.



Briefing Room

The department's briefing room was moved in 2000 to make additional space for the prosecution unit office. The space currently used for shift briefings is also used as a lunch room, and report writing area as well as a weapons cleaning area.



Sally Port

The sally port or garage bay located on the north side of the Locust Street façade is used for the temporary parking of police vehicles that are transporting arrestees. Due to a lack of space within the facility, the area is used as overflow, and short term storage. The area, through which officers are required to walk prisoners, has exposed wiring and plumbing.



Booking area

The booking area is used to process all arrestees. The room has poor ventilation and temperature control. The room houses the intoxilizer machine, booking computers as well as an automated fingerprint machine. These expensive items are not protected from damage and are exposed to potentially combative arrestees.



Prosecution / Animal Control

The room currently used to house the police prosecutor, victim witness advocate and prosecution secretary had been the roll call room until 2000. Due to a lack of space elsewhere in the facility, the animal control officer is housed in the same room. In order to perform her duties, the animal control officer has several nets, traps and cages that are stored in the same room. Additionally, the room has no heat and the proximity to an exterior door forces the use multiple space heaters during winter months.



Cell Block

The facility's cell block, which was renovated in 1988 and consists of five individual cells, is the most recently constructed part of the current police facility. A 2009 risk management study conducted by experts in the field found that the current holding facility is substandard and a liability, as such the cells are no longer used.



Indoor vehicle storage

Currently the department's large specialty vehicles, such as the Crime Scene Services and Mobile Command vehicles are kept at the former National Guard Armory located on Oak Street. Storing the vehicles off-site requires officers to drive to the armory to retrieve the vehicle before responding to a critical incident or major crime.



Firing Range

The department currently uses the Somersworth Police firing range located in Somersworth, NH. The range is not adequate and its future is in question. Due to the fact that the range is situated within 100 yards of a neighborhood consisting of single family homes, there are limitations to the times that that range can be used.



View of the range from the firing line.

Proximity of nearby houses



View of neighborhood approximately 100 yards from firing range

Facility Wide Deficiencies

- Lack of space
- Windows
- Water
- Mold
- Rest rooms
- Electrical
- Heating /Air Conditioning / Ventilation
- Plumbing

Lack of Space

Work stations set up in a hallway between the men's and women's locker rooms.



This small hallway leading to the women's shower room is used as a kitchenette. The area is cramped with two vending machines, a full size refrigerator and microwave.

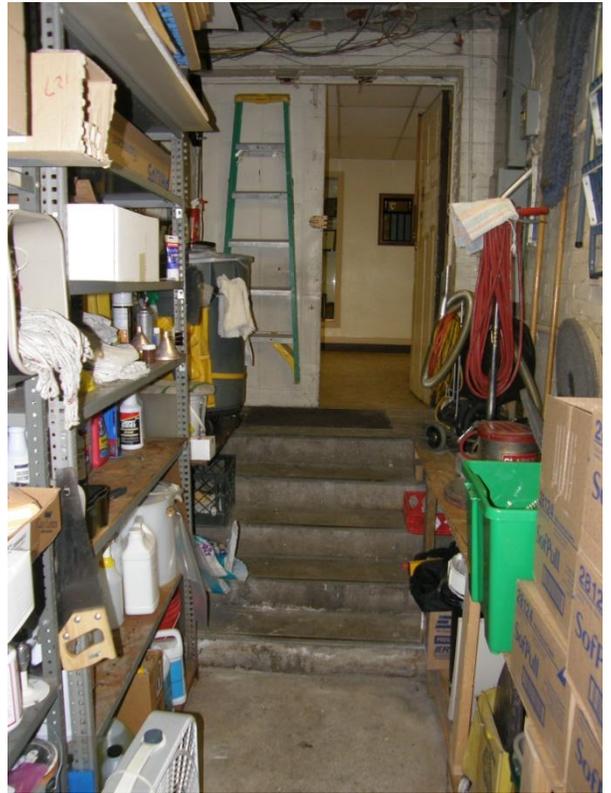
The men's locker room is cramped and there is not enough space for all male employees' lockers. Only sworn officers and parking enforcement officers are assigned lockers. The men's locker area is split into two separate areas, only one of which has a shower room.

One of the rooms is also used to house a small temporary kennel for the department's K-9.



To maximize space the aisles between the lockers is minimal and there is no bench for employees to use when dressing.

Janitor's storage area is located in a stairwell that leads from the report intake area to a records storage closet.



Records storage area that is damp and periodically has standing gray water. At one time the room was used to store evidence but deemed unacceptable due to the potential damage to evidence.

Windows



Ground floor windows in the Records Bureau that are not fortified.

Ground floor window in dispatch supervisor's office that is not fortified.



Ground floor windows in the Special Investigations Bureau office that leak and are located above detectives' desks.



Unfortified
ground level
windows to the
Communications
Bureau.

Water

Water leak damaging ceiling and causing rust on air exchange vent.



Water leak in evidence storage area
"B Room".

Water leak in men's locker room.





Remnants of gray water flooding in records storage area.

Mold



Mold in an air exchange vent in the men's locker room.

Mold in vent in Special Investigations Bureau commander's office.



Mold on air exchange vent in Prosecution office.

Restrooms

Restrooms are not handicap accessible and have no ventilation, and most are immediately adjacent to work spaces.



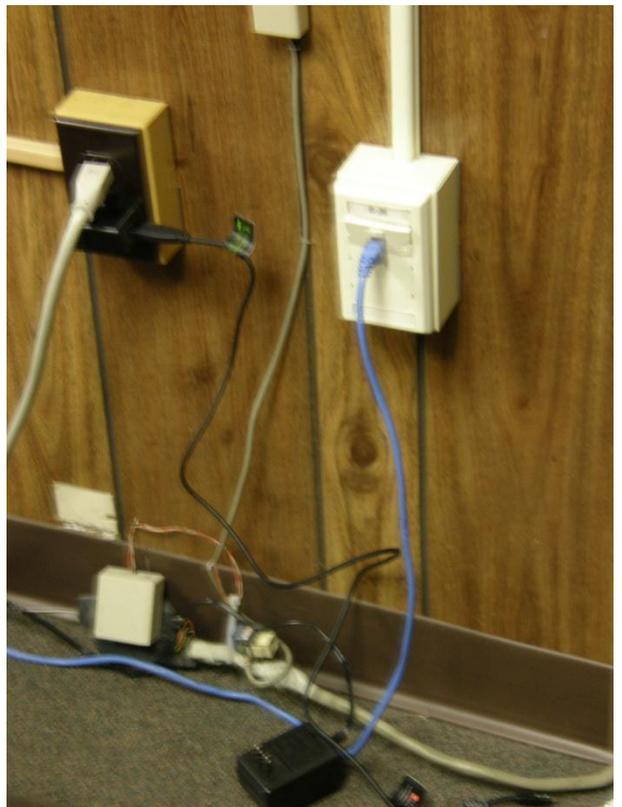
Electrical

The current police facility has an inadequate number of electrical outlets. Additionally, due to numerous electrical changes over the life of the City Hall building there is a large amount of old wiring in the ceiling of the police facility. There are also electrical panels in public areas. The lack of outlets requires that extension cords and power strips be used to power computers, telephones and other equipment.



An electrical chase in the Communications Bureau that contains hundreds of wires.

Exposed wires in the division commanders' Office.





Multiple power strips used to charge portable radios, cell phones and other equipment



Multiple power strips used to charge flashlights

Plumbing / Heating / Air Conditioning / Ventilation

The department is heated through the use of wall mounted radiators. Not all offices have heat, requiring the use of electric space heaters. Additionally, part of the facility is cooled by central air conditioning and other parts are cooled through wall mounted AC units.



Wall mounted radiator in the Records Bureau office. The location of the radiators keeps desks from being against certain walls.

Wall mounted AC unit in Communications Bureau





Wall mounted AC unit in Records Bureau office. The AC unit is above records storage that is at risk should the unit leak.

Wall mounted electric heater in the crime lab.



Space heater in prosecution office.



Exposed waste pipe in hallway.

Exposed waste pipe in the shift commanders' area.





The department has two document shredders. Both shredders are located in areas that are not properly ventilated to the industry standard.

Shredder located in hallway

Shredder located in Shift Commander Area



Recently constructed police stations

Hampton, NH



The 24,000 square foot facility was built in 2004.



The facility has a Training Room that comfortably accommodates seating for 32-40 students and allows for in-house training and for the department to host classes.

Rochester, NH



The Rochester Police facility is 28,000 square feet and was constructed in 2004.

Somersworth, NH



The Somersworth Police facility is 13,500 square feet and was constructed in 2008.