



City of Austin

Recommendation for Action

File #: 24-5978, **Agenda Item #:** 13.

10/24/2024

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Financial Services Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20240814-007) to increase appropriations by \$120,500,000 for the acquisition and renovation of property located at 1501 and 1601 South Mopac Expressway, Austin, Texas 78746 for a public safety campus. Related to Items #26 and #14.

Lead Department

Financial Services Department

Fiscal Note

Funding is available from the future issuance of tax-exempt general obligation bonds. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

Kimberly Olivares, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Financial Services Department, 512-974-2924.

Additional Backup Information:

This budget amendment is for the acquisition and renovation of the properties located at 1501 and 1601 South Mopac Expressway. The properties consist of an approximately 13.83-acre site, two four-story Class A office buildings totaling approximately 390,963 square feet of usable/rentable area, 417,640 square feet of gross building area, and two five-level parking garages with approximately 1,551 garage and surface parking spaces. The property will be used as a public safety campus and allow the City to combine the Emergency Medical Services, Austin Fire Department, and Austin Police Department headquarters into a single location approximately three miles from City Hall.

The buildings have been very well maintained since completion in 1999 and 2000. However, there are some near-term renovations identified during due diligence that will be supported by this amendment. Further, the amendment also includes funds for design and programming of the space. This work will take approximately six months to complete at which time staff will return to Council with a request for additional funds to complete the renovation of the facility to meet public safety operational requirements.

Current headquarters facilities, particularly for Austin Fire Department and Austin Police Department, have far exceeded their useful life, creating significant challenges for working conditions, public access, and maintenance and investment. Acquisition of this property will provide improved working conditions for sworn and non-sworn personnel, meet current space and future growth needs, improve public access, and collaboration among public safety departments. The City will work with existing tenants as they develop their plans to leave the space at or near the end of their lease terms.