



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget  
**Project Request Justification**

2006-2008 Biennium Date: July 22, 2005

**A. General Information**

1. Agency name: Virginia Tech 2. Agency code: 208  
 3. Project title: Construct: New Police Facility 4. Agency priority: 16  
 5. Contact Person: M. Dwight Shelton, Jr.  
 6. Contact's telephone number: (540) 231-8775  
 7. Contact's e-mail address: mdsjr@vt.edu

**B. Proposed Project**

1. Project Cost:

General Fund/General Fund supported debt	2,000,000
Nongeneral fund	
9 (c) revenue debt	
NGF supported 9 (d) revenue bonds	
<b>Total request</b>	<b>2,000,000</b>

2. Project cost changes:

NONE.

3. Description:

- This is a new project on the university's capital plan. The project envisioned is an 8,000 gross square foot freestanding facility sited in a visible area of campus with good access for vehicles to the campus road network and adequate room for secure vehicular parking. The scope of the project is based on the minimum space need for a police operations staff of 67 with necessary training, holding, secure storage, and interview rooms.
- The life expectancy of the proposed facility is 50 years with proper maintenance.
- The Virginia Tech Police Department may lose its accreditation because of deficiencies in its present accommodations and these concerns can not be addressed in the existing building.
- This project scope is based on the facility requirements to appropriately situate and house the Virginia Tech Police Department and to maintain accreditation standards to support adequate campus security.

**4. Project scope change:**

NONE.

**5. a. Approved Master Site Plan:**

Yes  No

**If not, explain:**

**b. 2004-10 Capital Outlay Plan:**

Yes  No

**If not, explain:**

- This is a new project on the university's capital plan. The project envisioned is an 8,000 gross square foot freestanding facility sited in a visible area of campus with good access for vehicles to the campus road network and adequate room for secure vehicular parking. The scope of the project is based on the minimum space need for a police operations staff of 67 with necessary training, holding, secure storage, and interview rooms.

**6. Equipment for a previously funded project.**

NONE.

**7. Supplement to a previously funded project.**

NONE.

### **C. Project Justification**

**1. a. Existing condition:**

- The Virginia Tech Police Department occupies 5,760 gross square feet of space in the Sterrett Center. This building, which was built in 1958, is located behind Lane Stadium next to the university's motor pool and physical plant facilities, near the perimeter of campus. The general condition of the building is poor, with inadequate space for assigned staff.
- The Virginia Tech Police Department is currently an accredited program that is in danger of losing its accreditation because of deficiencies in its present accommodations. The list of concerns with the ill-suited space includes the following items:
  1. The occupancy load of the building does not meet the newly adopted International Building code, and the second floor is structurally inadequate for clearance heights, loading, and has been temporarily braced up for safety.
  2. The space does not meet current accreditation standards based on poor mechanical ventilation and ADA accessibility. Some visitors to the department for interviews cannot access the area where interviews are normally conducted.

3. There is no conference space with which to conduct meetings on topics of a sensitive or confidential nature.
4. The police facility requires a secure storage area for confiscated weapons and for the campus ROTC program training weapons. The current conditions are not adequate for this function.
5. The current evidence storage is located outside of the Police Department in a metal storage building because of inadequate space. This condition will not pass the next re-accreditation process.
6. There is no training room and the uniformed officers are required to do two, four hour training blocks per month to stay certified and meet accreditation standards. It is often difficult and problematic to find appropriate space for this function.
7. The briefing room has space for 15 occupants; however most briefings require the presence of at least 20 employees, with considerably more needed at athletic and special event briefings.
8. Patrol cars are not in a secured area and are accessible to the general public. These vehicles need to be away from the general public because of the equipment they contain and need to be easily accessed by the Officers.

**Higher Education Only**

**b. Facility Condition Index:**

FCI   N/A  

**c. Space deficit:**

Yes  No

**2. Programmatic information:**

- The Virginia Tech Police Department is a full time, full service, nationally accredited police department, staffed by professionally trained men and women to support the safety and security of Virginia Tech campus including about 25,000 students and 6,000 employees.
- The dispatch office is staffed 24 hours a day and the department's dispatchers are always available to answer questions or to have an officer respond for service.
- The department consists of 39 sworn officers, 3 reserve officers, and 19 full-time support staff. In addition, numerous seasonal employees are selectively hired to provide support in safety programs, such as the Escort Service and nighttime Dorm Security Patrols.
- The Virginia Tech Police Department may lose its accreditation because of the deficiencies listed above in its present accommodations, which can not be addressed within the existing building. This project is requested to appropriately situate and house the Virginia Tech Police Department and to maintain prescribed accreditation standards.

**3. Alignment to strategic plan:**

The construction of a new police facility will provide the necessary improvements to meet ADA and code compliance standards, to continue accreditation of the Virginia Tech Police Department, and to insure the safety of the entire campus by providing secure storage for weapons and equipment. Thus, this project supports Virginia Tech's strategic plan in the areas of Research and Scholarship, Graduate Education, and Undergraduate Education by

providing a secure environment in which to conduct the research and educational activities of the institution.

#### **D. Options Considered**

Other options considered but not selected include adding on to the current facility or delaying the project entirely. Constructing a new police facility is the selected option because it will provide increased functional space at a more effective location, while offering the department the opportunity to maintain its national accreditation.

Constructing an addition to the current facility is not a feasible option because of limited adjacent space. Also, it would not address the location and security issues experienced with the current structure.

Delaying the project to a future biennium is not a viable option because the Virginia Tech Police Department may lose its accreditation due to the deficiencies of its current facility. In addition, security risks to the university community could not be adequately addressed due to a lack of appropriate storage facilities for ROTC and confiscated weapons.

#### **E. Project Schedule Changes:**

NONE.