

August 11, 2023

Honorable City Council Members
Honorable Trustees of the Norman Municipal Authority
201 West Gray Street
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Mayor Heikkila and Council Members:

The Public Safety Sales Tax (PSST) Oversight Committee met on August 10, 2023 and voted to communicate to Council a request for funding the construction of a vehicle storage facility as part of the Emergency Communications and Operations Center (ECOC) project in the amount of \$875,000 from available city funding sources. The ECOC facility is a PSST project voted upon and approved by the citizens of Norman in 2015.

1. The plan to complete the ECOC project with a vehicle storage building was part of the original 2017 design. The facility was reluctantly removed during a value engineering process in 2019 and returned during the final design when funding for the full scope of the project (hardening, size, etc.) was provided in 2020. The vehicle facility is fully designed and was included as an alternative option in the construction guaranteed maximum price (GMP) bidding process completed earlier this year. Due to significant construction price increases in 2022, this alternate was not able to be funded with currently available resources.
2. The proposed approximately 3,300 square foot facility will allow for the safe and secured storage of the City of Norman Emergency Services Command Post, Emergency Management trailers and mass care equipment, and city outdoor warning system parts and materials. Total assessment of these items today is approximately \$932,000. No alternative facility is currently available. These critical city resources, which are maintained by both the Norman Fire and Police Departments, are relied upon for use, by the city as a whole, to provide services and resources to our residents in critical times of need.
3. **The Committee recommends to Council that any and all avenues of funding be explored to fund the construction of the ECOC vehicle storage facility. Two options would include use of available fund balances of the Public Safety Sales Tax Fund or General Fund. This is an important need and is necessary to help ensure safe and efficient storage of these critical assets. The cost of the facility is less than the current value of the assets it will store on day one. Additionally, delaying the construction to a later project following**

completion of the main ECOC construction will result in unknown cost increases for future development. This action was approved 6-1 by the Committee.

We are glad to respond to any questions you may have regarding our discussion and this action.

Sincerely,

Linda Price, Chair
Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee

EC: Public Safety Sales Tax Oversight Committee Members
Darrel Pyle, City Manager/NMA General Manager
Anthony Francisco, Finance Director/NMA Treasurer
Kathryn Walker, City Attorney/NMA General Counsel
Kevin Foster, Chief of Police
Travis King, Fire Chief