

Joint Law Enforcement Training Facility Feasibility Assessment

On May 18, 2026, the Wolfforth Police Department presented to the Wolfforth City Council the need for a dedicated law enforcement training facility. During that discussion, the potential development of a joint-use training facility in partnership with the South Plains Association of Governments (SPAG) was introduced. The Council requested additional information regarding the feasibility of such a project, with particular emphasis on location, noise impacts, funding, site accessibility, and the operational relationship between the participating agencies.

Over the past several months, the Wolfforth Police Department has worked collaboratively with SPAG and engineering consultants to evaluate these considerations.

Proposed Facility Location

The proposed site is located at the intersection of Woodrow Road and County Road 1100. OJD Engineering evaluated the property and identified the southeast corner as the most suitable location for the facility. This location provides several advantages, including:

- Adequate separation from existing water wells.
- Approximately one-half mile of separation from nearby agricultural operations south of Woodrow Road.
- Approximately one mile of separation from Autumn Oaks Event Center.
- Direct access from a paved roadway (Woodrow Road), minimizing the need for additional roadway improvements and providing convenient access for law enforcement personnel and emergency vehicles.

Based on the engineering review conducted to date, no significant site constraints have been identified that would prevent development of the proposed facility.

Noise Evaluation

Recognizing that noise is often the primary concern associated with firearms training facilities, the Wolfforth Police Department consulted with Mr. Andrew Pulvermacher, National Supervisor of the NRA Range Technical Team. Mr. Pulvermacher has more than 20 years of experience in range design and has been involved in the development of approximately 200 shooting ranges nationwide.

Based on his review of the proposed location, Mr. Pulvermacher indicated that the site compares favorably to many existing law enforcement training facilities and that noise-related concerns are more commonly associated with inadequate range design,

construction, or operational practices than with geographic location alone. He advised that modern range design standards and best practices can significantly mitigate noise impacts to surrounding properties.

The department also reviewed comparable facilities currently operating in Lubbock County. The Lubbock Police Department range and the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office range are both located in closer proximity to neighboring properties than the proposed Wolfforth/SPAG site and have operated successfully for many years with minimal reported concerns from nearby residents. Discussions with representatives of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office indicated that noise complaints are rare to nonexistent under their current operating conditions.

Funding and Development Considerations

The development of a joint-use facility would provide an opportunity to leverage resources between multiple agencies, reducing the financial burden on any single entity while increasing access to professional training opportunities throughout the region. Potential funding sources may include local contributions, regional partnerships, grants, state and federal funding opportunities, and user fees from participating agencies.

A more detailed cost estimate, including construction, operation, maintenance, and long-term capital replacement expenses, would be developed during the design phase to ensure the project remains financially sustainable.

Interagency Partnership Structure

Should the project move forward, it is recommended that the City of Wolfforth and SPAG enter into a formal Interlocal Cooperation Agreement (ILA) or similar governing document. The agreement should clearly define:

- Ownership and control of the facility and underlying property.
- Capital funding responsibilities.
- Operating and maintenance cost-sharing provisions.
- Scheduling and priority use procedures.
- Liability, insurance, and risk management requirements.
- Environmental compliance and remediation responsibilities.
- Facility management and governance structure.
- Procedures for future expansion or participation by additional agencies.
- Dispute resolution and termination provisions.

Establishing these expectations at the outset will ensure transparency, accountability, and a successful long-term partnership between the participating agencies.

Conclusion

Based on the information gathered to date, the proposed joint training facility appears to be a viable option for meeting both current and future law enforcement training needs. The proposed location provides suitable access, appropriate separation from surrounding properties, and favorable conditions for noise mitigation. Additionally, a collaborative partnership with SPAG would allow the City of Wolfforth to share development and operational costs while enhancing regional training capabilities.

Further due diligence, detailed engineering design, cost analysis, and execution of a formal interagency agreement, is recommended prior to final project approval. However, no significant issues have been identified at this stage that would preclude continued development of the proposed facility.