

School Security and Safety Proposal

We are all very aware of the situation in Newtown, Conn involving the attack on the elementary school there. While the safety of our children has always been a high priority this event has elevated that concern all across this nation. To this end the Sheriff's Department and School Administrative Staff met to discuss the issue of school security in Amherst County. The School Administration personnel were asked to address two questions relative to improving school security and safety:

1. What do you feel are major concerns with security at your school?
2. Given the ability to correct or add a security measure at your school, what would it be?

The answer that came back identified three priorities as follows:

1. Place a School Resource Officer (SRO) in each school.
2. CIP improvements to harden the physical facility.
3. Communication

Priority number one would involve the placement of a SRO in each of the elementary and middle schools and two SRO's at the high school. In the past we had five SRO's. However, due to funding limitations that number has now been reduced to one officer who is assigned to the high school. Attachment #1 provides a breakdown of costs to initially hire and train one SRO and Attachment #2 provides projected costs for the second year and further. You will note that a major expense listed is the cost of a vehicle. It is necessary that these officers have a vehicle, however, these officers would be provided a used road vehicle and the new vehicles would be assigned for road duty. There are ten public schools and one private school in Amherst County. We recommend that there be two officers at the high school and one officer at each of the other schools. This will require the hiring of eleven (11) additional officers at a cost of \$1,045,990 initially, and a cost of

\$638,946 the second year.

Priority number two would be the hardening of the physical facilities (does not include the private school) as identified in Attachment #3. The projected cost for these improvements would be \$2,072,469 which could be accomplished over some time period, if an officer would be on site at each school.

Priority number three was identified as communication. The ability of school personnel with rooms close to the outside doors to communicate with the office personnel is of concern. Also the ability of school personnel to communicate with the Sheriff's Office, other than by telephone, is important. Can the new radio system be utilized for school personnel and SRO's to address this concern?

Based on the information presented the following actions are recommended:

1. Hire eleven (11) new deputies to serve as SRO's. Place two in the high school and one in each of the other schools, including the private school since the majority of the students come from Amherst County.
2. As stated there is a difference between the initial costs and the second year and further costs. It is recommended that in these following years these funds (\$407,044) be utilized to accomplish upgrades to the physical facilities, except for the private school, as identified in Attachment #3. This would permit the recommended facilities upgrade to be accomplished in five (5) years.
3. That a .05 increase in real estate taxes be imposed to pay for implementation of these priorities. Attachment #4 charts the impact such an increase would have on the real estate taxes. A public hearing specifically for this matter would determine the public support for this plan.
4. That the new radio system be reviewed to determine if some of the
5. In the event other funding sources are available (from Federal or State) we would take advantage of them to augment this proposal and be able to reduce the tax increase sooner.
6. A new budget (Safety and Security of our School Children) would be created to receive and disperse funds for this project; which would not be a part of the School or Sheriff's operating budgets.

Attachment #1

Polygraph	175.00
Written test	25.00
Administer test 2 hours	56.00
Background 32 hours	890.00
FTO – 3 months	7,571.00
Salary – remainder 3 months	7,571.00
Physical exam	120.00
Uniform	900.00
Body Armor	550.00
Radio	3,000.00
Leather	300.00
Firearm	800.00
Taser	1,000.00
Misc Equip (lockout, camera,etc)	500.00
Radar	2,000.00
Alco Sensor	350.00
Computer	3,000.00
In car camera	5,500.00
Cell phone \$46 per month	552.00
Air card \$41 per month	492.00
Vehicle	27,300.00
Vehicle Install (Elecom)	1,310.00
Vehicle lettering (McBride)	460.00
Vehicle Equipment (West Chatham)	1,290.00
Vehicle Light bar & cage	1,440.00
Academy fees	695.00
Basic	
Officer Survival	
Code books	
Defensive Driving	
Salary while in academy 6 months	15,142.00
Fringe Benefits	
Health Ins (10,007 – 4,560)	5,447.00 **
VRS	3,948.00
Life Ins	389.00
FICA	2,317.00
Total	\$95,090

Year 2 and further

Uniform	200.00
Cell phone \$46 per month	552.00
Air card \$41 per month	492.00
Academy fees	345.00
Membership VSA	30.00
Gas \$700 per month	8400.00
Oil/minor repairs for vehicle	300.00
Salary and fringe benefits	
Step 4 \$33,986	
Step 2 \$32,667	32,667.00
Family health ins	
Family \$10,007	5,447.00
indiv-\$4,560.00	
VRS	3,948.00
Life ins	389.00
FICA	2,820.00

TOTAL \$61,469 - \$54,703



Amherst County Public Schools

Attachment #3

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To: Clarence Monday, County Administrator

From:  Brian Ratliff, School Superintendent

Subject: Amherst County Schools CIP Safety/Security Needs

Date: January 10, 2013

Attached is information including some identified facilities' safety/security needs for Amherst County Public Schools. While the attached list of needs is most essential, there may be other needs that emerge for consideration to be included in future capital improvement planning.

As always, we appreciate your consideration for any assistance you may be able to provide. Should you have any questions, concerns or need for clarification, I will gladly meet with you and/or the Board of Supervisors to discuss the attached information.

January 10, 2013

Amherst County Public Schools CIP Safety / Security Needs

* Upgrade Electronic Doors at Public Entry Access Points	\$42,000
* Install Security Vestibules at all Public Entrances (all schools)	\$132,890
* Upgrade all Exit Door Hardware	\$318,573
* Install Mastered Key System Intruder Locksets on all Doors All schools except Amelon, CES & most of ACHS which have already been done	\$335,599
* Upgrade Classroom Doors from 1/2 Lite Panel Doors to 6" Security Lite Doors All schools except Amelon, CES & most of ACHS which have already been done	\$768,888
* Add Security Cameras at all Entry / Exit Doors Add Cameras & DVR's to all Elem. Add Cameras at HS & MS	\$259,000
* Upgrade Entry Point doors at MMS & AES 9 Doors at AES & 57 Doors at MMS	\$194,769
* Install Traffic Bollards at Front Entrances & around Propane Tanks	\$20,750
	\$2,072,469

SAFETY AND SECURITY AMHERST COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 10, 2013

Safety Needs

PERSONNEL

- ✧ School Resource Officers
- ✧ School level administrative staff

Safety Needs

FACILITIES

- Upgrade electronic doors at public access points.
- Install security vestibules at all public entrances
- Upgrade all exit door hardware
- Install master key system intruder locksets on all doors

Safety Needs

- Upgrade 1/2 lite panel classroom doors to 6 inch security lite panel classroom doors
- Install 911 emergency notification hardware
- Install security cameras at all entry/exit doors
- Install traffic bollards at front entrances and around propane tanks at all schools

Current Safety/Security Measures

- ✧ School Resource Officer (1)
- ✧ Surveillance cameras
- ✧ Electronic entrances
- ✧ Intruder locks/doors
- ✧ Crisis plans for all schools and central office
- ✧ Background screenings for all personnel and volunteers
- ✧ Visitor check-in/out requirement
- ✧ ID and/or uniform requirement for staff

Current Safety/Security Measures

- ☐ Safety tool kits
- ☐ Six-year plan
- ☐ Capital Improvement Plan
- ☐ Threat assessment
- ☐ Phones in classrooms
- ☐ Safety Drills – Fire, Tornado, Earthquake, Lock-down
- ☐ AED devices in all facilities
- ☐ In-house first responders
- ☐ Fire alarm and security systems

Attachment #4

Chart Displaying Impact of .05 Increase to Real Estate Tax

Assessed Value	Current Tax	Proposed Tax	Difference
\$50,000	\$260	\$285	\$25
\$75,000	\$390	\$427	\$37
\$100,000	\$520	\$570	\$50
\$125,000	\$650	\$712	\$62
\$150,000	\$780	\$855	\$75
\$175,000	\$910	\$998	\$88
\$200,000	\$1040	\$1140	\$100
\$225,000	\$1170	\$1283	\$113
\$250,000	\$1300	\$1425	\$125
\$275,000	\$1430	\$1568	\$138
\$300,000	\$1560	\$1710	\$150