

Unlike previous police station measures, this package has also recruited campaigners by including \$2.6 million for 15,000 square feet of space for domestic violence and youth service nonprofits to open offices in the police station. "A lot of us are willing to work for it," Kids First Director Elaine Walters told councilors.

But it's unclear whether it will make sense for the struggling nonprofits to pay the fees the city may want for the space. The city plans to charge the groups about \$13 a square foot for building operations and maintenance, according to city data. Private commercial offices near City Hall rent for as little as 60 cents a square foot, according to Duncan & Brown appraisers.

If the city moves to a precinct model to promote community policing, the city will also need far less space than previously estimated in a police headquarters. Eugene's new Police Chief Robert Lehner says a city Eugene's size should "seriously consider" moving to a precinct model.

Supporters have also argued that the current police offices in City Hall aren't earthquake safe. But opponents point out the same risk applies to the rest of City Hall offices and other city buildings. The city also spent \$4 million recently to move police workers out of the basement into a safe new forensics building. "There is no emergency anymore," Bettman says.

Remodeling City Hall for earthquakes

**'There is no emergency anymore.'**  
*- Councilor Bonny Bettman*

Including nonprofits may also not work with voters. A county jail measure failed in 1998 despite 20 percent of the money going to social services.

The old arguments that didn't convince voters twice before don't appear any more persuasive now.

Backers say the police station is cramped and needs to double in size. But it's similar to per-officer space in Portland and Salem. There's even more room now for expansion after the police forensics and property units and downtown fire station have moved into new buildings.

would cost between \$500,000 and \$4.3 million according to city studies.

That's a lot less than the \$405 per square foot the city wants to spend on a new cop shop. By comparison, one of the most luxurious mansions on the homebuilders "dream" tour this year costs only \$175 per square foot.

City staff say that even if voters reject the expensive police station, they'll recommend that the City Council build it anyway with squirreled internal money.

Bettman says it wouldn't be a good idea to defy voters. A "no" vote in November "is people saying we don't want this package." **EW**




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