



SASHA L. RITTENHOUSE

CHARLES A. PATTERSON

MELANIE F. WILT

3130 East Main St., Springfield, OH 45503 | Phone: 937.521.2005 | Email: [commission@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:commission@clarkcountyohio.gov)

## PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING Q&A

(Current as of October 16, 2025)

**Q1: What are some of the improvements needed to the current facility?**

- Reconstruct entry plaza - \$500,000
- Address ADA issues & update flooring - \$200,000
- Replace HVAC equipment, boilers, chillers - \$1,000,000
- New roof - \$735,000
- Replace jail locks - \$392,000

**Q2: What are the annual maintenance costs for the current facility?**

The annual maintenance costs are approximately \$430,000. In addition, it requires 2000 hours to maintain and clean.

**Q3: What is the sales tax increase that is being proposed and how much will that generate annually if passed?**

0.5% increase which would generate approximately \$10 million per year

**Q4: What products and services are exempt from sales tax?**

In Ohio, exemptions apply to most groceries, prescription drugs and certain utilities. Baby products, medical equipment and agricultural products and manufacturing equipment are also exempt.

**Q5: What is the proposed cost of the new building?**

The proposed cost of the building is \$100 million, which includes construction costs, architectural fees, and land acquisition costs.

**Q6: How much will the debt (principal & interest) payment be on an annual basis?**

The County plans to issue a 20-year bond to pay for the building. The estimated annual payment is approximately \$7.8 million; however, the actual repayment amount will depend on the interest rate which is subject to change with the market.

**Q7: If passed, when would the 0.5% sales tax increase start?**

April 1, 2026.

**Q8: Can the Commissioners cancel the 0.5% sales tax increase early?**

Yes. The Commissioners can cancel the increase early if the balance in the fund is sufficient to pay the remaining debt.

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**Q9: With the increase of property taxes, will any property tax money be used to utilize the new facility?**

No, the Commission gets very little in.

**Q10: Were there any other bidders for the purchase of land?**

No, the Commission would have no way to be able to tell that.

**Q11: Where will the new facility be located?**

The new facility will potentially be located in the South of Springfield near Interstate 70, in the 2600 block of South Limestone Street. The letter of intent to purchase the property was submitted and approved by the Commissioners on August 20, 2025.

**Q12: Were there any other locations considered? What made you choose this location?**

There was extensive evaluation of choosing a location. The reality is there is no perfect location.

The county's search prioritized cost effectiveness, accessibility, long-term growth potential and public safety. The county sought 10-20 acres to allow 40-50 years of potential growth. This chosen location represents the most cost effective and secure option, offering the best value for taxpayers' money. It has limited residential impact, appropriate access, quick response times, and sufficient space for the county's long-term needs.

**Properties Considered and Looked at:**

- **East End-** Properties on the East End of Springfield were ruled out, due to an increase of response times for individuals who live out in the New Carlisle/Park Layne area.
- **Ohio Edison Plant-** Originally considered but sits in a flood plain requiring millions of dollars in mitigation costs to make it suitable.
- **Property on the West Side of Springfield-** A property owner was willing to sell his land, but it was outside of Springfield city limits being too far to be annexed and there was no water or sewer access available.
- **Shelley Materials-** Not for sale and owners were not interested in selling or having a conversation.
- **Property on Leffel Lane-** Cost was prohibitively high.
- **ODOT Property-** The state of Ohio would not discuss selling the land as they have plans to build a facility there.
- **Kenton and Burt Streets-** Located in a dense residential area, posing traffic concerns and pedestrian safety in the event of an emergent response.

**Q13: There was a grant proposed in 2021 for \$1 million to fix the current county jail. Why was that rejected?**

That grant was proposed under the former administration. The fine print in that grant said we needed to maintain the current jail for at least 20 years, which was not the direction we wanted to go in.

**Q14: Can there be a townhall to discuss this with the public?**

Right now, is not the time to have a full townhall because the county is ways away from final details. The county is still unsure on how the outcome of the election will be, and depending on that visions and thoughts may change. The county has identified the property, currently in the process of doing due diligence, and

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hasn't officially purchased the property. The Commissioners are open and willing to have one-on-one conversations with citizens to address concerns and questions.

**Q15: Where will the Springfield City Police be held?**

They are looking on locating though nothing is concrete. They have ideas but nothing is set in stone because the county is 3 years out from actually building.

**Q16: Why so much land? Can we use less?**

The way the jails are built now is more expanded because it is more efficient in the long run. When the current jail was built in 1980 that was the original intent. The county wants to expand so we are not in the same situation 50 years from now.

**Q17: Why do we even need a new jail?**

The current space is inadequate to reduce crime in Clark County and renovating the current facility has been studied and is not economically feasible.

**Q18: Why now?**

It gets more expensive the longer we wait. The administration did the first jail study in 2017 and 2018, and then COVID happened. It was originally proposed at \$59 million and has now gone to \$100 million. These costs never get cheaper and will increase 5-10% the longer we wait. Sheriff Chris Clark and the 2025 Board of Clark County Commissioners and Commission Staff have done an excellent job with presenting this to the community and communicating that the time is now that Clark County needs a new Public Safety Building.

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