



1. Why is the City of Dallas investing in a new police training academy?

The current facility's aging infrastructure, lack of space and the Dallas Police Department's continued projected growth is the foundation for this investment. New facilities will support advanced training methods and technologies that ensure recruits and officer are equipped to navigate modern policing challenges. Building a best-in-class academy will also contribute to keeping the Dallas Police Department competitive in its recruitment of top-tier candidates.

2. What is the status of the planned regional police academy?

The City of Dallas and the University of North Texas at Dallas (UNT-Dallas) have updated plans for the DPD Law Enforcement Training Center at UNT-Dallas (DPD Center). Located on the UNT-Dallas campus, the DPD Center included in the April 2, 2025 City Council Briefing consists of police basic training building, an in-service training building, a multipurpose assembly facility and a criminal justice facility. The facilities will total almost 282,000 gross square feet (gsf) which is approximately the area of five football fields. Of the 282,000 gsf, approximately 40,000 gsf is dedicated to Reality Based Training.

- Basic training building 100,000 gsf
- In-service training building 70,000 gsf
- A 1000-person auditorium 25,000 gsf
- A criminal justice building 12,000 gsf
- Multi-purpose indoor training 75,000 gsf

3. What brought about the design updates?

We incorporated guidance from the Dallas City Council during the March 5, 2025, briefing and feedback from key stakeholders. The updated design plans include a 20-acre area that we identified on UNT-Dallas campus that will the allow for us meet both basic and in-service classroom training needs on the UNT-Dallas campus and maintain our commitment to collaborate with UNT-Dallas to build a best-in-class law enforcement training facility on their campus.

A feasibility study will determine the most optimal location for a complementary City of Dallas Public Safety Complex. This complex will include an outdoor firearms training area, a simulated tactical village, and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOOC). The study will also examine how best incorporate a potential indoor firearms training area and Dallas Fire Rescue (DFR) training space.

4. Why do Basic and In-service buildings have similar spaces? Isn't that an unnecessary duplication of space?

The State of Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) requires separation of recruits who have not passed their Basic Peace Officer Course (BPOC) from post-BPOC recruits and officers. This separation aligns with the best standard practices across the country and with current police academy procedures.



5. Is it inefficient to have training at two locations?

A two-location training system provides flexibility and expanded capacity and creates an opportunity for training programs to be tailored across locations. Inefficiencies will be managed through scheduling and coordination, with personnel reporting to the appropriate site on designated days. Additionally, UNT-Dallas Master Plan does not have a location to accommodate an EVOC, a simulated tactical village or a shooting range and these components are not compatible with the University campus.

6. What is the projected ‘all-in’ cost of construction?

The estimated project cost of a basic and in-service academy in 2021 was \$140 million. As we update conceptual plans to include all the training components that DPD and key stakeholders have identified that they will need on the UNT-Dallas campus and complete the site feasibility study for the Public Safety Complex, we will develop construction cost estimates for both facilities. At this stage, we have funding commitments of over \$100M, through public and philanthropic dollars paving the way for us to proceed with project development at both locations.

7. What are the expected operational and maintenance costs of the UNT Dallas location?

Operations and maintenance (O&M) cost estimates are developed later the design process. City facilities are designed for LEED Gold standards which incorporates energy efficiency and reduced water consumption as part of building design, reducing long-term O&M expenses. Once O&M costs are identified, the city will incorporate these costs into the annual budget process.

8. What is the benefit of locating the training academy on the UNT-Dallas campus?

Locating the DPD Center within a university fosters collaboration between academic experts and law enforcement. This promotes evidence-based practices and enables research that can directly benefit DPD by providing data-driven policy and strategy improvements. Additionally, co-location provides a direct pipeline for students pursuing public safety degrees, strengthening recruitment and professional readiness. Most importantly, situating the facility on campus promotes transparency, community engagement, and trust between law enforcement and the public.

9. How many other sites did the City of Dallas consider? What were the pros and cons? What about utilizing fire training facilities?

In October 2022, a memorandum was sent to the Mayor and City Council outlining the partnership with UNT Dallas to establish a best-in-class police training facility. Prior to that, the City of Dallas explored multiple sites for a police training academy, with efforts dating back to the early 1990's. None of those locations were considered suitable due to logistical and financial challenges. Regarding the use



of the existing DFR training site, while it is a valuable public safety resource, it lacks the capacity to meet all the specialized training needs required to fully support the DPD. The partnership with UNT-Dallas not only provides the necessary space and infrastructure but also promotes collaboration, research, and community engagement in a modern academic setting.

10. What is the cost of operating two locations compared to consolidating everything at the UNT Dallas campus?

There are limited locations in the City of Dallas that have the acreage needed to accommodate all the components into one location. Those locations were not viable for this project and the opportunity to collaborate with UNT Dallas will support our efforts to create a pipeline for recruiting. Due to various factors, it is not possible to consolidate all the training components onto the UNT Dallas campus. The overall operational costs of the Public Safety Complex will be determined through the feasibility and programming phase.

11. What about the current police academy? Doesn't the lease expire in June 2027?

The lease on the existing police academy at Redbird expires in June 2027. We are in negotiations with the property owner to extend the lease until the new facilities are completed and ready for occupation.

12. Will the DPD Law Enforcement Training Center at UNT-Dallas impact the neighborhood, and have plans been discussed with them?

During the programming stage and site planning phase, the design team has been sensitive to the impact of the project on the local community and has incorporated buffer zones and security into the site plan. As the design team moves to the next phase, a formal community engagement strategy will be initiated, includes working with the Gilliam Academy, local neighborhood associations and others. As part of the design process a traffic study will be conducted to determine potential impacts from a traffic perspective.

13. Will the trainers all be DPD officers, university staff, outside trainers, or a combination?

Most instructors will be DPD officers, ensuring that training is grounded in real-world law enforcement experience. In addition, we incorporate expertise from City staff—such as attorneys from the City Attorney's Office for legal instruction—and faculty from UNT-Dallas, who will teach select academic courses to provide a well-rounded, comprehensive training program.



14. Explain security measures that will be built into the police academy campus – will it be a secured facility?

The basic and in-service components of the police academy will be secured. While specific security measures are still being developed during the programming phase, the design team will collaborate closely with DPD as the schematic design progresses, to ensure DPD training areas meet the City's ITS security standards as well as physical security to the site. The design team will work together with DPD to implement best practices and ensure the facility meets all relevant safety and security requirements.

15. Are there elements of the police academy that weren't included that you considered but had to remove, due to costs or other constraints?

All training component needs were provided by DPD leadership and training staff and have been incorporated in the plan. The plan allows flexibility for the complete training program for DPD while allowing the flexibility for expansion in the future if needed.

16. What is the project timeline for construction to begin and opening of the facility?

Groundbreaking for the DPD Law Enforcement Training Center at UNT-Dallas is expected to be in early fall of 2026 with an estimated 18-month construction schedule and opening in the first quarter of 2028. The plan for the Public Safety complex is that it will be developed concurrently beginning with a site feasibility study.