

Local Option Sales Tax for Public Safety Campus

We are requesting granting Woodbury City Council the option to opt for a voter referendum for a local option sales tax.

Woodbury provides integrated public safety services (medical, fire, police and emergency preparedness). This full service offers regional safety and security capabilities and resources to support the full range of incident management activities associated with potential or actual incidents requiring a coordinated response. Our public safety facilities provide a base for coordinating and supporting state, regional and local public safety resources during potential incidents requiring a coordinated regional response.

The Public Safety Campus project will result in benefits to both the residents and businesses of the City of Woodbury and to regional non-resident visitors and businesses. Funding the project with a local sales tax will more closely distribute the cost of the project to the users of the facilities.

Public Safety Campus Project Features:

- Acquisition of adjacent Washington County Service Center building (being relocated to the METRO Gold Line area)
- Demolition or renovation as necessary and expansion of the Public Safety Campus to include the acquired facility and existing Public Safety Building

Woodbury is now the eighth largest city in the state—the largest suburb in the east metro—at more than 80,000 people. Our business and retail centers are very busy, particularly with Wisconsin residents commuting back and forth to Minnesota. As such, our Public Safety operations are crucial to support our large regional employment and shopping areas, as well as active mutual aid provision to St. Paul and the whole east metro.

The City of Woodbury has the regional overburden of mutual aid responses as the largest eastern suburb.

Since the last Public Safety Campus update in 2010, 20,000 people have been added to our population. An additional 20,000 residents are expected by 2040.

Woodbury Public Safety provides police, fire, EMS/ ambulance and emergency management services in coordination with Washington County and other entities.