

Richard Bland College Public Safety and Emergency Operating Center Budget Amendment

\$971,270 (Planning Dollars)

Background The Richard Bland College Campus Police Department is housed in a 1,349-square-foot building. Built in 1935 as a hay storage facility and converted in 2008, the building is outdated and inadequate for modern public safety and emergency management needs. A new Public Safety and Emergency Operating Center is essential to improve campus safety, crisis coordination, and regional emergency response.

Current Challenges

- **Outdated Infrastructure:** Built 90 years ago, the structure's materials and systems (HVAC, plumbing, and electrical) are outdated or near end-of-life.
- **Limited Space:** The 1,349 SF space is insufficient for modern police functions and emergency operations.
- **Non-Compliance:** The building lacks ADA accessibility, proper fire protection, and modern technology, limiting its functionality and safety.
- **Inadequate Design:** No private, secure spaces for victims or confidential meetings. Emergency operations occur in a break room, with no dedicated resources or layout for crisis management.

Proposed Public Safety and Emergency Operating Center The new 22,500-square-foot facility will address deficiencies and ensure effective emergency management. Key features include:

1. **Centralized Location:** Easily accessible for the campus community and will provide rapid response to emergencies.
2. **Dual-Use Design:** Houses the Campus Safety & Police Department and the Information Technology Department for efficient resource use.
3. **Modern Systems:** Fire alarms, sprinkler systems, and advanced technology for seamless operations.
4. **Victim-Centered Spaces:** Private, welcoming areas for confidential interactions.
5. **ADA Compliance:** Fully accessible for individuals with disabilities.
6. The space will also include areas for academic opportunities related to degree curriculum and public safety drone training operations

Budget Request

- **Detailed Planning Cost:** \$971,270

Benefits

- **Enhanced Safety:** Supports coordinated responses to emergencies.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Serves as a hub for local emergency services.
- **Modernization:** Meets safety codes, ADA standards, and technological needs.
- **Efficiency:** Shared resources between safety and IT departments.
- **Dedicated Space for continuing education** for public safety employees as well as related degree training curriculum.

Request: Richard Bland College respectfully requests \$971,270 from the Virginia General Assembly to conduct planning for a modern Public Safety and Emergency Operating Center. This funding will allow the planning and design of a facility that meets campus and community needs.

Front and Back Side of Building



Emergency Operating Center



Front Lobby



Officer's Office – Shared space for 11 officers



Student Housing & Academic
Side of Campus (East of
Johnston Road)

current facility location

