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Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

Thanks to the approval of voters in the Nov. 5 bond election, most members of the Burleson Police Department could be in new quarters within a year.

Voters approved \$5 million for police station acquisition and improvements. The City has closed on a two-story building at 1161 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. that fronts Hwy. 174/Wilshire Boulevard. The 22,000-square foot building, which was formerly owned by Huguley, will more than double the available space for the police department. The current police station at 225 W. Renfro St. is 10,000 square feet and houses 81 employees. The building on Wilshire Boulevard will be remodeled to house police administration, patrol, criminal investigations, records, community resource officers, traffic, and victim assistance. The department's telecommunications division and the jail will remain at 225 W. Renfro St.

The City will work with current tenants of the Wilshire site who are still under lease to facilitate use of the building for police. The remodel could begin as early as Spring 2014.

Voters also approved \$1.8 million for the acquisition of public safety radio equipment. The new radio equipment for Public Safety (police, fire and fire marshal) will also include multiple City departments that communicate with Public Safety such as public works, animal control, code enforcement, and public information. The goal was interoperability, which basically means that everyone is on the same system. The new equipment will put Burleson on the same system as the City of Fort Worth (a 700MHz--800 MHz system) as well as agencies in Johnson and Tarrant counties (Burleson straddles the county line). The new radio equipment will allow Burleson to communicate with the City of Crowley, City of Benbrook, Med-Star, City of Forest Hill, Tarrant County Sheriff's Office, City of Fort Worth, Johnson County Sheriff's Office and constables, Joshua Police Department, Alvarado Police, Godley Police, Grandview Police, and all fire departments served by the Johnson County Emergency Services district (JCESD).

The public safety telecommunicators and the departmental users will be trained on the new radio equipment in January with the new system expected to be operational by February.