



WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE DISTRICT
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Size and Cost Comparisons Published for Williamstown Fire Station Project

Williamstown, Mass., January 19, 2023—The Williamstown Fire District’s Building Committee has published data that compares the size and cost of its proposed new station with ones recently built in the region.

“This informative data shows reassuringly that our size and square foot cost are very close to or below average,” Building Committee Chair Elaine Neely said.

The committee had been trying to identify new stations built by communities of comparable size, especially those in the region in order to control for the effects of climate and general construction costs. Such buildings, however, are rarely constructed. Williamstown’s current station, for instance, is 73 years old.

So project Lead Designer Robert Mitchell compiled data on several dozen stations in the region that have been built since 2018 or are in advanced planning or construction stages, and compared averages from the comparison groups with the figures for Williamstown.

The full data charts are available at <https://tinyurl.com/2d42bkmr> & <https://tinyurl.com/3hhycs6h>

Here is a summary:

<u>SIZE</u>	<u>Comparison group avg.</u>	<u>Williamstown</u>
sq. ft. per resident served	3.3	3.9
sq. ft. per sq. mile served	2,779	579

<u>COST</u>	<u>Comparison group avg.</u>	<u>Williamstown</u>
Construction cost per sq. ft.	\$705	\$706

Dropped from the cost comparison were four buildings whose costs were driven significantly by factors idiosyncratic to each. Keeping them in would have raised the group average more.

Backing out two costs idiosyncratic to the Williamstown project—site challenges (\$1 million) and net carbon zero design (\$1.4 million) lowers the Williamstown figure from \$705 to \$661 per square foot.

Williamstown's proposed building is 27,218 sq. ft., with an estimated construction cost of \$19,214,600. A typical formula for estimating the total cost of such projects (including design, legal, etc.) is to multiply the construction cost by around 1.3.

At a special district-wide meeting the public will vote whether the project can proceed.

This single-agenda-item meeting, open to all registered Williamstown voters, will take place on Tuesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m at the Williamstown Elementary School.

The vote will be whether to “raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow the sum of Twenty-Five Million Dollars” for the project. Because borrowing is involved, passage will require a two-thirds majority of those voting at the special meeting.

Free, supervised activities for children age six and up will be available next door at the Williamstown Youth Center.

Anyone needing a ride to and from the meeting, or wanting to arrange a ride for someone else, can email wfdbuildinginfo@williamstownfiredept.org.

“This is an important and long overdue project for our community,” Neely said. “I encourage all registered voters who can to come vote on the evening of Feb. 28.”

More information on the project is available at www.williamstownfiredept.org

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