

## NLR Proud Projects

Voters of North Little Rock approved an additional 1% sales tax because they trusted us to keep our promises. We promised safer homes, better streets, and a City we could all be proud of. For the past few months our staff has been working hard putting together the pieces for a five year, \$40 million investment for public safety and streets and drainage. This is an update on where we are in the planning stages and what progress 2018 will bring on the [NLR Proud Projects](#). – Joe A. Smith, Mayor

### Background

#### Permanent ½ cent

Half of the one penny sales tax will be used to continue the level of service our residents have come to expect, without going further into our reserve account and continuing to pay down our debt.

#### Sunset ½ cent

The other half of the new penny tax will expire in 5 years. In that time, we estimate the tax will generate revenue of \$40 million to be used for public safety facilities and street improvements.

The City Council proposed, and the voters approved in August, the following [NLR Proud Projects](#) to be funded by the temporary ½ cent:

- \$10 million for Street and Drainage Improvements
- \$20 million for a new Police and Courts Building
- \$10 million for Fire Station Improvements

## Approved by NLR Voters



### Expires in 5 years

Streets	<b>\$10 million</b>
Police	<b>\$20 million</b>
Fire	<b>\$10 million</b>



### Permanent

Needed for:

- day to day operations
- avoid using savings to provide current level of service

December 2017

## Fire Station Improvements

At the Mayor's direction, Chief Tucker has assembled a team of Fire Department staff to assess the current and future needs of all 11 fire stations. They have determined that some **NLR Proud Projects** need specific, critical repairs, others are in need of remodeling, a couple might just need some touch-ups, and at least one fire station needs to be completely rebuilt. Our assessment of the current and future needs of our department will be a continuous effort over the next few years.

Of course, the entire \$10 million for the fire station improvements will not be available in the first year. We believe we will spend **\$1.5 million in 2018**, addressing a variety of projects, at five different stations, that can be completed by the end of the year.

Our Fire Department administration has determined that Station #6 on Camp Robinson (Levy) is reaching the end of its useful life. They have recommended the station be relocated nearby and rebuilt in order to provide better, modern fire protection for the area. The Mayor and his staff agree, and are working on new possible locations for the City Council's consideration. If the planning can be completed this coming year, the Mayor is hopeful that there will be a groundbreaking for a **new Station #6 in Levy in early 2019**.

### 2018 Fire Department Projects

#### Station #4 (Maumelle Blvd.)

HVAC problems that have created significant water damage issues are a top priority. During these repairs, a portion of the station will be outfitted for the Police department, adding a continuous police presence to the Western border of our city.

#### Station #7 (Lakewood-McCain)

Staff is considering building an addition to this station in order to provide adequate sleeping quarters. Other day room improvements are planned.

#### Station #10 (Hwy 70 and I-440)

Kitchen and bathroom remodels. New flooring. Other minor touch-ups and repairs.

#### Station #2 (Broadway)

Roof Repairs. Engine room lighting, and flooring. Other minor repairs.

#### Station #11 (Baucum Pike)

Sewer Line tie-in (currently on 2 septic tanks). Other minor repairs.

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## Police and Courts Building

Building a \$20 million facility that will serve our city for decades is, as one would expect, taking quite a bit of planning. It is the largest of all the [NLR Proud Projects](#). We have had staff from the police department attend training sessions on what a modern police headquarters requires. Several staff from the police department, the Mayor's office, and our court system, have toured new police and courts building all over our state and region. Advanced technology, employee requirements, evidence handling – all these issues and more demand we take the time to get this right.

Currently our police staff is **conducting a needs assessment** to determine what is critical and what could be improved. Our judges are providing input and direction regarding the justice portion of the building. After touring several new police facilities outside Dallas, our staff contacted a consultant who was involved in those specific buildings and many other police facility construction projects. It is likely we will retain this consultant's expertise for certain portions of our planning process.

**2600 Poplar is the recommended location for the new facility.** The City Council has approved a memorandum of understanding to purchase the National Guard Armory and "swap" current police department property for the current NLR School District Administration Building. The NLRSD has not yet approved this proposal.

The **architect selection process has begun**. Staff is preparing an RFQ and we will be advertising the project, due to the scope and scale of this building. The Mayor intends to have interview sessions with the finalists.

Although firm deadlines and guaranteed completion dates are impossible to predict at this time, the Mayor's office has come up with a tentative project timeline:

<a href="#">January 2018</a>	Architect RFQ is advertised (2-3 month process)
<a href="#">Summer 2018</a>	Armory demo could begin
<a href="#">January 2019</a>	Finalize plans for new building
<a href="#">Spring of 2019</a>	Groundbreaking for Construction (12-18 months)
<a href="#">Fall of 2020</a>	Grand Opening

December 2017

## Street and Drainage Improvements

Each of our four wards will receive \$500,000 each year to provide better streets to our residents. An initial list of potential street and drainage **NLR Proud Projects** will be put together by our City Council Members with input from our Street and Engineering departments.

Once the City Council Members have compiled priority lists, we will be promoting opportunities for our residents to contact their Council Member and provide their insight. The Council Members have expressed interest in reaching out to community organizations and soliciting their input. It is the Mayor's intention to rely on the Council Members from each ward to approve the selection process for all street and drainage **NLR Proud Projects**. (Note: it is important to remember that these funds are *in addition* to projects we fund every year in the regular maintenance of our city.)