

Problems with the existing courthouse

Primary courthouse issues include:

- **Safety and security** related to inmate movement/proximity to victims, families and jurors in hallways, courtrooms and jury deliberation areas
- **Agging infrastructure**
- **Accessibility/ADA concerns**

When construction of the existing Johnson County Courthouse began in 1951, the county's population was only 62,783. Today, the population is about 580,000 and growing.

To meet the judicial needs of the growing community, the county has renovated the courthouse numerous times. Remodeling has not resolved important issues including safety and security concerns. Numerous studies have concluded the current courthouse is inadequate.

To many, courts are the cornerstone of an equitable, accessible democratic system.



More than **400,000 people** visit the Johnson County Courthouse annually for:

- Adoptions
- Court appearances
- Divorce
- Jury duty
- Legal counsel
- Marriage
- Traffic tickets



Aerial photo of existing courthouse located at 100 N. Kansas Avenue in Olathe.

What happens if the public safety sales tax is not approved by voters?

If plans to construct a new courthouse do not move forward, cost estimates indicate that it will be more expensive to renovate and expand the existing courthouse.

In short:

- \$216 million* for renovation/expansion with a four-story addition.
The duration of the renovations and expansion will more than double the amount of interest paid.
- It will take approximately 13 years to complete improvements to the facility, since it is an occupied building that must remain operational.
- Additional revenue, such as property tax, would be needed to complete the renovation and expansion.
- No new coroner facility would be built.

*Scope and cost are based on estimates.

Renovation and expansion of existing facility will not fully address:

- Safety and security — separation of inmates and criminal defendants from victims, witnesses and jurors in the courthouse hallways
- Accessibility concerns and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance
- Judicial needs and future growth of the county

PUBLIC SAFETY SALES TAX on the Nov. 8 ballot

A new county courthouse and coroner facility



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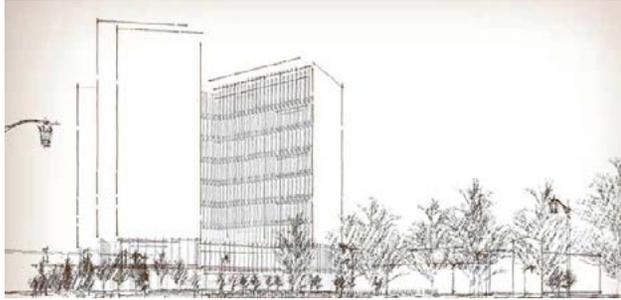
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Public safety priorities identified, public safety sales tax proposed

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners has proposed a new county courthouse and coroner facility in Olathe. The two new facilities would be funded with a 1/4 cent, 10-year public safety sales tax, if approved by voters **on the Nov. 8 ballot**.



Conceptual rendering of proposed county courthouse. Final design, scale and materials have not been determined.



Johnson County currently uses a pay-for-use facility in Wyandotte County. A new coroner facility is proposed for a site just south of the Johnson County Criminalistics Lab in Olathe.

Proposed new courthouse

The proposed solution is to construct a new 28-courtroom courthouse across Santa Fe Street north of the existing building in downtown Olathe.

The courthouse will **cost approximately \$182 million** and will take four years to construct. It will:

- **Make safety and security improvements** — separating inmates and criminal defendants from victims, witnesses, jurors and others in courthouse corridors.
- **Replace the aging, overcrowded courthouse** — with a more suitable building that would be accessible/ADA compliant.

The proposed courthouse would **meet Johnson County's judicial needs for the next 75 years** as the county expects to add 10,000 residents each year.

Coroner facility

Johnson County does not have its own coroner facility. Autopsies are currently conducted at a pay-for-use facility in Kansas City, Kansas.

A new coroner facility in Johnson County would **cost approximately \$19 million** and provide:

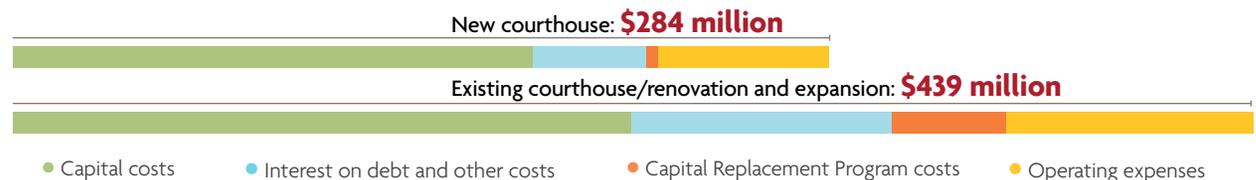
- **Increased ability** for conducting autopsies and controlling the prioritization of autopsy work — reducing wait time for families and local officials.
- **On-site toxicology** (currently outsourced) and real-time data reporting for epidemics and crime (currently not available).
- **Ability to meet anticipated accreditation** legislation and resulting requirements for facilities.

Cost comparisons

Renovating and adding on to the existing courthouse with no county coroner facility will cost **\$216 million** — **\$34 million more than building a new courthouse.**

Over a 20-year period, cost estimates indicate that the continued use of the current courthouse **will cost \$155 million more than that of a new courthouse.**

Costs over 20 years:



All estimates are in today's dollars

How does a 1/4 cent public safety sales tax affect you?

The proposed public safety sales tax will add 25¢ for each \$100 spent on purchases in Johnson County. Here are a few examples of how the 1/4 cent public safety sales tax would impact purchases:



A \$20 t-shirt would add 5¢

A \$400 TV would add \$1



An \$898 refrigerator would add \$2.25



And...

- Estimates show that **22%** of the public safety sales tax will be **paid by visitors and non-residents.**
- **Cities in the county** will receive a **portion** of the public safety sales tax proceeds, as required by state statute.
- This public safety sales tax would **end after 10 years.**



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