

Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC)

1. Why the item is necessary: Provide a concise explanation of the issue or opportunity the item addresses and why it is essential to act.

The El Mirage Police Department is significantly challenged by a lack of training facilities to maintain and improve officer proficiency and skill sets. The lack of easy access to a firearms range, vehicle driving track, motorcycle proficiency course, defensive tactics mat room, K-9 training course, POPAT fitness assessment course, VITRA virtual reality room for judgmental decision making on deadly use of force encounters, and a shoot house for live fire training.

Currently, we have to drive to different venues outside the city to access these facilities when they are available, and this ability is becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain. The drive to the Surprise PD shooting range is well outside the city, taking an officer out of service for significant periods, impacting timely service delivery and average response time to calls for service in El Mirage.

Solution: Join the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center

The Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC) is a 56-acre, 70,000 square foot state-of-the-art public safety training facility located at 115 Avenue and Glendale Avenue. It is a shared partnership training facility used by Glendale Police and Fire, Avondale Police, Peoria Fire, Surprise Fire, and the Maricopa County Community College District. This facility trains and certifies new police officers and firefighters and maintains their proficiency standards and ongoing mandatory training requirements throughout their careers. Joining GRPSTC will allow EMPD to no longer depend on other agencies to gain access to their facilities for training and proficiency requirements, which are becoming increasingly more difficult to obtain.

GRPSTC is a training center that encompasses a driving track, police officer physical aptitude test (POPAT) obstacle course, shooting range, defensive tactics mat room, 360-degree computer virtual reality scenario-based simulation judgmental training scenarios, motorcycle track, physical fitness facility, computer lab, and a K-9 training area.

The value of joining GRPSTC encompasses the following:

- *State-of-the-art training facility and training tools, less than 3 miles from the city limits of El Mirage*
- *Easy access to a shooting range, a mat room, a driving track, simulation training, and a defensive tactics mat room*
- *There is no need to drive to the Surprise dump, Buckeye, or the Lake Pleasant shooting ranges, which saves on out-of-service times.*

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- *Less instructor and officer encumbered time, as the ability to train with other partner agencies to help reduce overtime.*
- *Joint training with partner agencies to ensure consistency with training standards.*
- *Quick access to the POPAT course to screen police recruits.*

- 2. How the item benefits the City: Summarize the positive outcomes or improvements the item will bring to City operations, services, or long-term strategic goals.**

Becoming a partner with the Glendale Regional Public Safety Training Center (GRPSTC) solves the challenges stated above and provides access to state-of-the-art training facilities to improve officer performance and skill sets. Having an agreement in place will ensure the El Mirage Police have a training center now and in the future.

- 3. How it impacts residents: Highlight the direct or indirect effects on the community, focusing on how residents experience changes or improvements.**

Lessening the City of El Mirage's and Police Department's liability through providing high-caliber training and proficiency standards.

- 4. Statutory requirements or Code provisions involved: Please note any legal mandates, compliance requirements, or policy guidelines that require this item.**

Ensuring compliance with the mandatory requirements of the Arizona Police Officers Standards & Training curriculum.

- 5. Why the item is critical or time-sensitive: Provide reasoning for the urgency, including deadlines, funding opportunities, or alignment with strategic priorities.**

This item was approved in last year's budget. Due to the overall costs associated, we want to start our agreement on July 1, 2025. The department no longer pays a fee to a local private shooting range, so it's imperative we have the training resources available at the start of the budget year.