

Updates as of July 18, 2023:

***Short-Term Animal Shelter:***

Work on the new animal shelter has started and more updates will be posted soon. "Short-term" does not mean that the department will only be used for a little while, it means that the "residents" will only be housed there until they are picked up by their owners or transported to the Edgefield County Animal Care and Control Facility. The Saluda County Sherriff's Office Animal Control Division will be implemented as soon as construction is completed.

***Saluda County Library:***

The County Library will be moving to the old Long's Drugs building at 307 West Butler Avenue. The County has received the updated plans for the new building renovation and is in the process of negotiating with the contractor to get the price within our budget of funds the Library has been raising. The County is also applying for a grant through Upper Savannah to prepare the property behind the building for extra parking and green space.

***Saluda County Detention Center:***

Bids are due tomorrow (July 19, 2023) to construct a building for the Coroner to relocate services in anticipation of the new Detention Center. If we have an eligible bid then County Council will award it at the regular council meeting on August 14, 2023 to be paid from our Building Reserve Account. Plans to bid the Detention Center project will be issued around the end of the year.

***Public Safety Referendum:***

The Council finds that it may be in the best interest of the County and its citizens to provide funds for the construction of a public safety facility to house County emergency medical services, a portion of fire protection services, and a renovation and expansion of the Saluda County Sheriff's office. In addition, the County is preparing to construct a new detention center and may require funds in addition to those available to the County from other sources. The cost of the Project, which is estimated to be up to \$7,500,000 (meaning we will only borrow what is needed once bids have been placed), must be funded with the proceeds of general obligation bonds of the County.

· We have a plan to build an EMS Headquarters which is currently located in the basement of the Nursing Center. This Headquarters will also be able to have an office for Fire Service and house a Fire Truck in the future if needed. The space will be utilized by EMS if not needed for Fire Services.

· An Expansion has been requested by the Sheriff's Department to accommodate investigations, filing space, and training. Some of those areas have been housed in a mobile home space that has passed its temporary use and was vacated.

· The Estimated cost of the Detention Center will be mainly funded through the Capital Project Sales Tax (the penny sales tax) previously voted on by the public in 2018. The cost may run more than originally planned at an estimated \$200,000.

· The approximate increase in taxes per the Saluda County Auditor's office is shown below. We will not know the exact amount until bids for construction are placed and the County knows how much funds will need to be borrowed UP TO the \$7,500,000.

If you have a home valued at \$150,000, your taxes will increase approximately \$70

If you have a home valued at \$250,000, your taxes will increase approximately \$100

If you have a vehicle valued at \$14,000, your taxes will increase approx. \$9

If you have a vehicle valued at \$50,000, your taxes will increase approx. \$24