



## Camp Dodge Interagency Infrastructure Summary

**Brady Carney, Director**

# Iowa Joint Training Needs

Iowa Department of Public Safety

Stephan Bayens, Commissioner



Iowa Department of Transportation

Scott Marler, Director



Iowa Law Enforcement Academy

Brady Carney, Director



Iowa Army National Guard

Stephen Osborn, Adjutant General



## Joint Training Priorities on Camp Dodge

- 1) Vehicle Operations Training Center (VOTC)
- 2) Dedicated Firearms Ranges



# Why Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVO) Training is Important

Law Enforcement Officers spend more time in their vehicles than anywhere else.

According to 2023 statistics, motor vehicle crashes account for more than **50% of accidental** law enforcement line of duty deaths and nearly **30% of all** line of duty deaths. National LEO Memorial Foundation

Iowa is the only state without a dedicated EVOC facility. (IADLEST)



# Current EVO Training

## Current locations utilized for EVO training

- Adventureland parking lot
- Camp Dodge parking lots
- Farm Progress Show (Boone)
- Iowa Speedway (Newton)
- Iowa State Fairgrounds
- ISU parking lots (Ames)
- Johnston High School parking lots
- Saylorville Lake boat ramp parking lots

Other than the Iowa Speedway, which is typically unavailable during the summer months, none of the current facilities meet the needs of a law enforcement EVO training program.



# Current EVO Restrictions and Limitations

Not having a dedicated EVO facility results in **dangerous training conditions** for ILEA staff and those completing training at locations not designed or intended for this purpose.

ILEA enters into **liability agreements** with entities for use of their facilities that were not designed or intended for EVO training.

EVO training is the #1 scheduling priority for each 16 week Basic Academy due to space availability which results in “**checkbox**” training rather building blocks and progressive skill acquisition.

ILEA staff spends an incredible **amount of time moving our training vehicle fleet** and designing & building EVO courses from site to site. Many times in back to back days or consecutive weeks.

ILEA recruits **lose valuable training time** while conveying from Camp Dodge to off-site training locations.

ILEA **can't facilitate the statutory requirements and immunity protections of 321.231B(1)(c)**



# Proposed VOTC

## Multi-agency collaboration from inception

- General Osborne and the Iowa National Guard have designated the space on Camp Dodge for multi-agency use. The State **does not have to purchase land** for this project.
- Director Marler and the Iowa DOT are providing subject matter experts to assist with ongoing design, engineering and project management.
- DPS and ILEA have ongoing training needs that would be met by the proposed VOTC.



## Proposed VOTC

### Iowa Vehicle Operations Training Center (VOTC)

The proposed Iowa Vehicle Operations Training Center (VOTC) would provide a consolidated venue for driver training and skills development for the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Iowa Army National Guard (IA ARNG), and other state agencies, as needed.



# VOTC Site Map



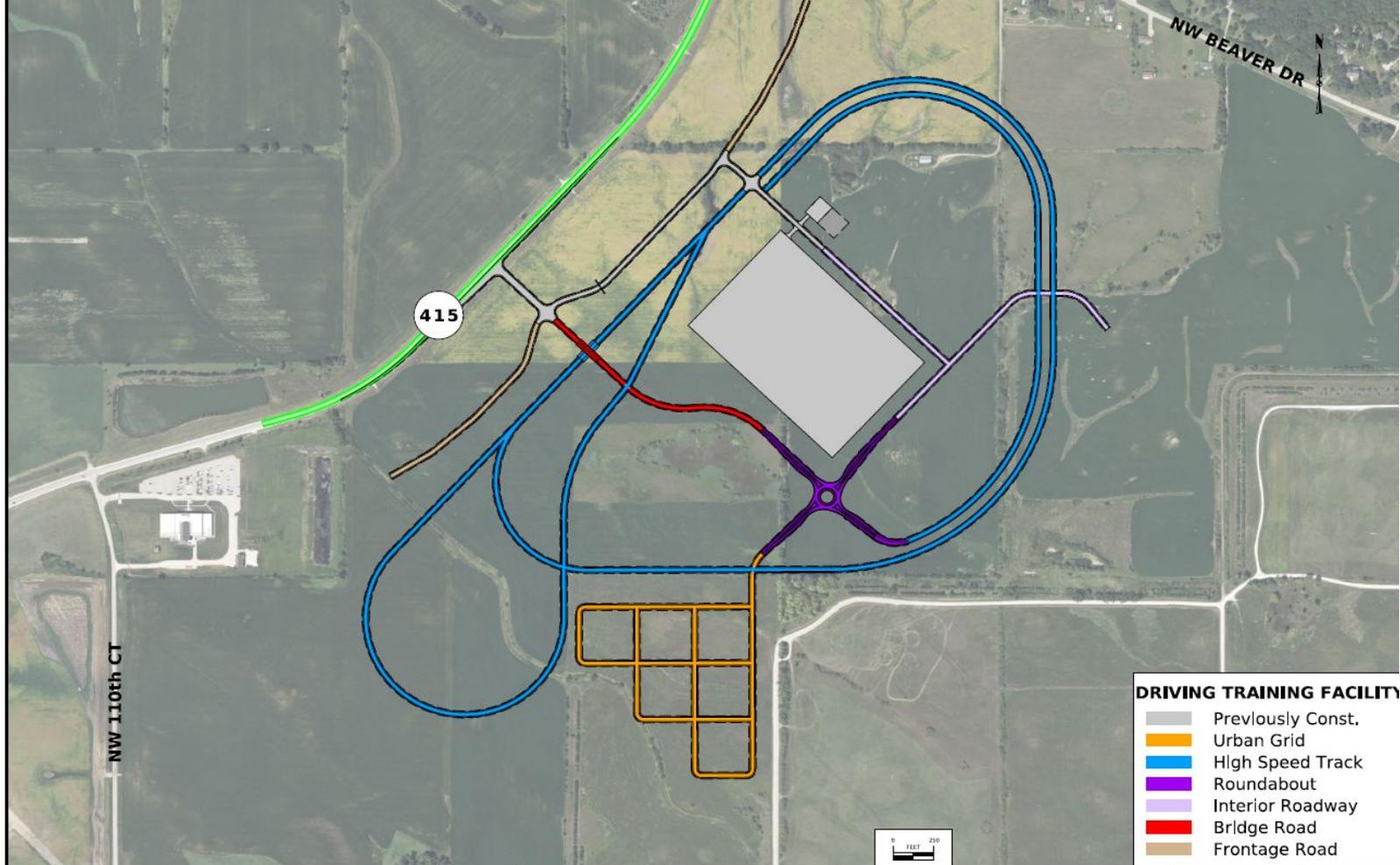
Professionalism Through Training



# VOTC - Phase 1

- Substantial dirt work throughout the proposed training space
- Access to multi-use training and testing pad from Hwy 415
- Venue parking space
- 1200' x 800' cement multi-use training and testing pad
  - 10" concrete to support all vehicles including military vehicles, fire trucks, EMS vehicles, plows, etc.
- Orange cone courses for civilian and tactical vehicles, “skills pad”, TIM training in support of overall traffic safety initiatives





# Phase 1 Construction

FY26 = \$15 million appropriation for Phase 1

- DOT has been instrumental in design, construction letting and project management **saving the State approximately \$1.5 million.**
- Phase 1 Contract Awarded
  - JB Holland Construction Inc.
  - \$13,785,993
- Latest start date 4-6-2026
- Construction completed in 260 working days
  - Estimated 4-5-2027



## Phase 1 Use

Upon completion of Phase 1, DPS and ILEA basic academy recruits will complete approximately 75% of required training hours on Camp Dodge.

- Approximately 42 out of 56 hours

Alternate, off-site training locations will be required until subsequent phases are completed.

Alternate, off-site training locations will continue to present same barriers we currently navigate.



# VOTC Future Plans

## Phase 2

- Rural & Urban Course and Partial High-Speed Course
  - Controlled and uncontrolled intersections, roundabout, curves, changes in speed and changes in surface (cement, asphalt and gravel) will simulate rural and urban work environments.
  - Pursuit training to meet current statutory training requirements
  - Law enforcement, accident investigations/reconstruction, snow plows and TIM training
- Vehicle recovery area
  - Support wheeled and tracked military vehicles
  - Vehicle recovery training and practice for civilian towing and recovery in support of highway clearance operations



# VOTC Future Plans

## Phase 2

- Range Support Building - 5,000 sq ft
  - Classroom, restrooms, training fleet storage, training fleet maintenance, VOTC training supplies storage
- Estimate \$13 million
  - Largely dependent upon cement pricing
  - Much of the site prep will be completed during Phase 1



# VOTC Future Plans

## Phase 3

- Completion of Highway Skills Course
  - Multi-lane course allowing for high vehicle speeds
  - Highway on and off ramps, tightening curves and diverging diamond intersection
  - High speed pursuit training
  - Multi-agency and interdisciplinary training exercises
- Estimate \$8 million
  - Largely dependent upon cement pricing
  - Vast majority of site prep will be completed during Phases 1 and 2





Professionalism Through Training



# Proposed VOTC

## Law Enforcement

- Initial and advanced driver's training
- Traffic stop safety and training
- Commercial motor vehicle inspection training
- Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC)
- High-speed pursuit training
- Police Intervention Technique (PIT) training



# Proposed VOTC

## Military

- On & off road tactical driving
- Vehicle recovery
  - On-road
  - Overturns
  - Embankments
  - Mires



# Proposed VOTC

## Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Training

- Communication and command
- Scene safety and safe vehicle positioning
- Traffic management
- Roadway clearance and termination



# Proposed VOTC

## Fire, Rescue and EMS

- EVOC training
- Fire suppression and spill containment
- Cable barrier release
- On-scene photo interpretation/triage



# Proposed VOTC

## Highway Maintenance

- High-tension cable-stayed barrier release/restoration
- Snowplow operation
- Infrastructure inspections



# Proposed VOTC

## Towing and Recovery

- Safe driving opportunities
- Stopping/starting in heavy traffic
- Equipment familiarization and practice
- Basic roadside service techniques



## Proposed VOTC...

**...will benefit multiple state agencies, multiple professions and the citizens of Iowa**

- No land purchase is needed!
- Current state agency subject matter experts are utilizing various skill sets to maximize effectiveness and efficiency for a VOTC.
- Adequately and safely training Iowa's professionals is of the utmost importance!



## Priority #2 - Outdoor Firearms Range

ILEA provides firearms training for Basic Academy recruits and Firearms Instructor training for county, local and State law enforcement agencies.

Many local, county, state, federal and out of state law enforcement agencies and military units use the Camp Dodge firing ranges.

Firearms training is commonly restricted to mostly Monday-Wednesday, which negatively influences the training schedule for every Basic Academy training cycle.



# Firearms - Current Situation

All ILEA Basic Academy recruits get **96 hours** of firearms/rifle training

- Each Basic Academy class = 30 range days
- Six classes per calendar year = **180 range days**

ILEA facilitates week-long instructor courses for new handgun and rifle instructors from across the State

- Six instructor courses per year = **30 range days**

All handgun and rifle instructors must attend one 8-hour renewal with ILEA staff within a three-year period to maintain instructor status

- Five renewals on Camp Dodge annually = **5 range days**



## Firearms - Current Situation

ILEA has a need for a firearms range approximately **215 days** per calendar year.

- Out of **251 working days** when accounting for weekends and holidays

DPS also has range needs for their Basic Academy and required in-service training to maintain certification



## Firearms - Current Situation

ILEA has used all of these training spaces in one 16 week training cycle due to weather and space availability

- Camp Dodge ranges (when available)
- Altoona Police Department
- Crossroads Shooting Sports (Johnston)
- Polk County Sheriff's Office
- West Des Moines Police Department



## Firearms - Current Situation

More importantly, lack of dedicated training space...

- Firearms training is Basic Academy **scheduling priority #2** behind EVO
- **Limits our ability to schedule** the applicable training programs at the most advantageous times within a training cycle.
- Every training schedule is **built around space availability and logistics** rather than **research-driven best practices**.
- Current lack of facilities **diminish our overall training product**.



## Firearms - Current Situation

DPS and ILEA have been utilizing the Iowa Army National Guard (IA ARNG)'s S-15 Pistol Range. The IA ARNG is currently working on plans to convert the S-15 Pistol Range to a crew served weapon range (machine gun).

The S-11 M16 Qualification Range is no longer useable as designed due to the change in military ammunition. As a result, DPS, ILEA and IA ARNG are recommending re-purposing the S-11 M16 Qualification Range. This would provide a firing range that **both ILEA and DPS** could utilize without having to use other local firing ranges (Altoona PD, Crossroads Shooting Sports, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Brownells, etc.).





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# Firearms - Training Needs

## Core Needs

- 50 firing lanes with turning targets at 50 yards
- Safety barrier allows simultaneous operation of two 25-lane firing ranges
  - DPS and ILEA could use range at the same time
- Same range space used for long-distance rifle training
- Relief from weather elements allows for year-round training
- Range support building
  - classroom, simulator, restrooms, ammunition storage and range supply storage
- Parking Lot



## Progress To Date

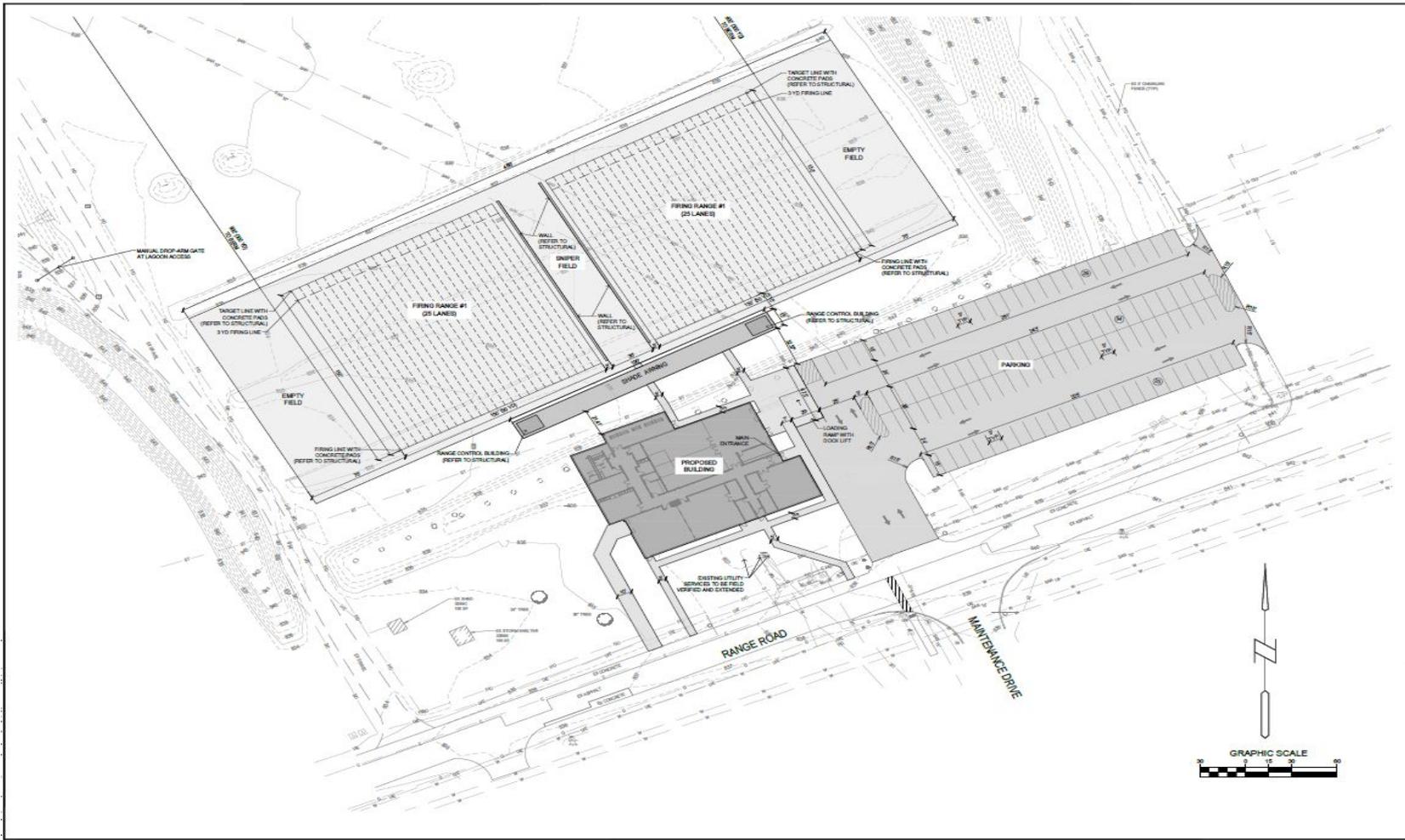
### October 24, 2025

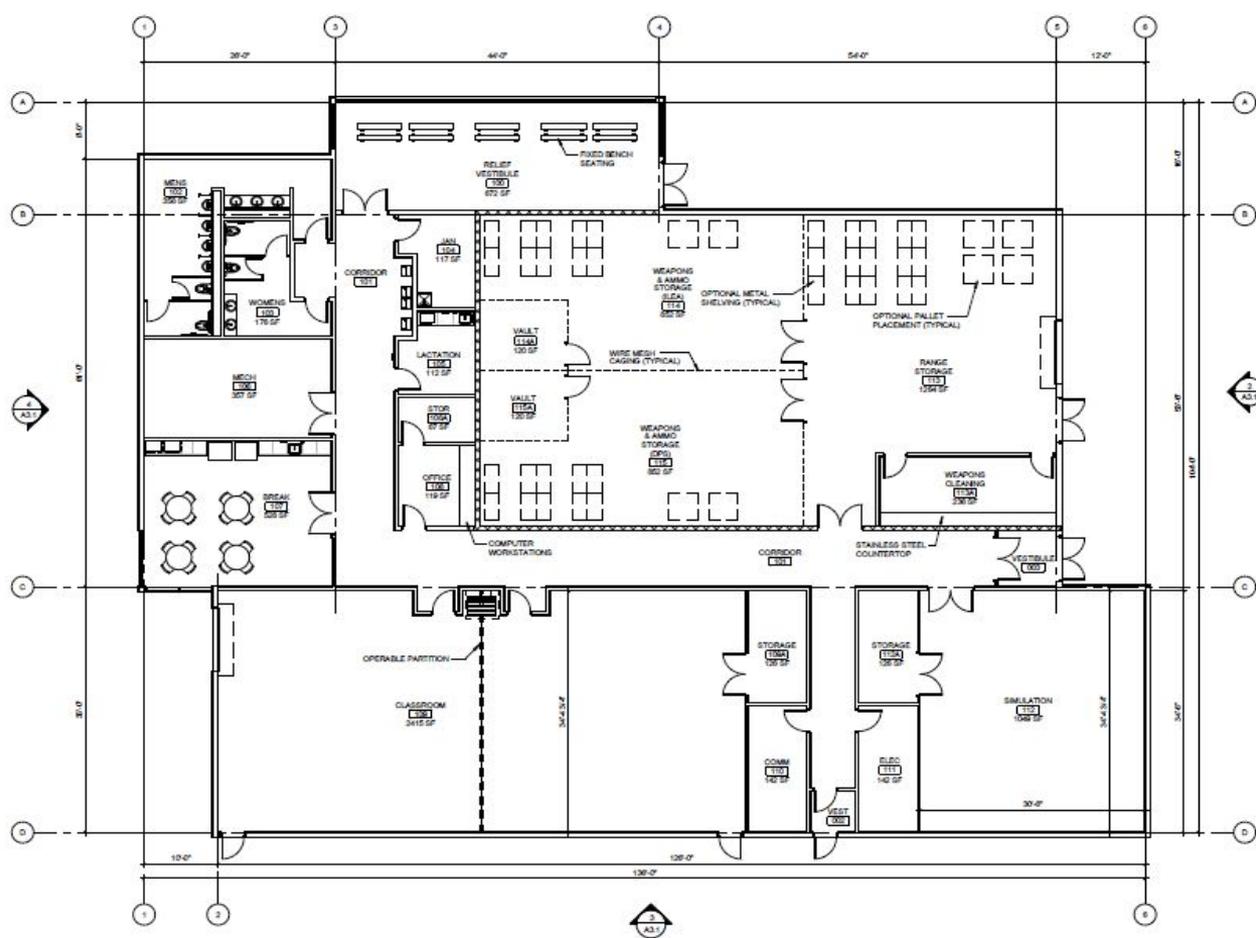
- ILEA was awarded \$3,300,000 in ARPA/SLFRF Funds
  - \$1,800,000 = Comprehensive Master Plan Development
  - \$1,500,000 = Site Preparation and Initial Civil Construction

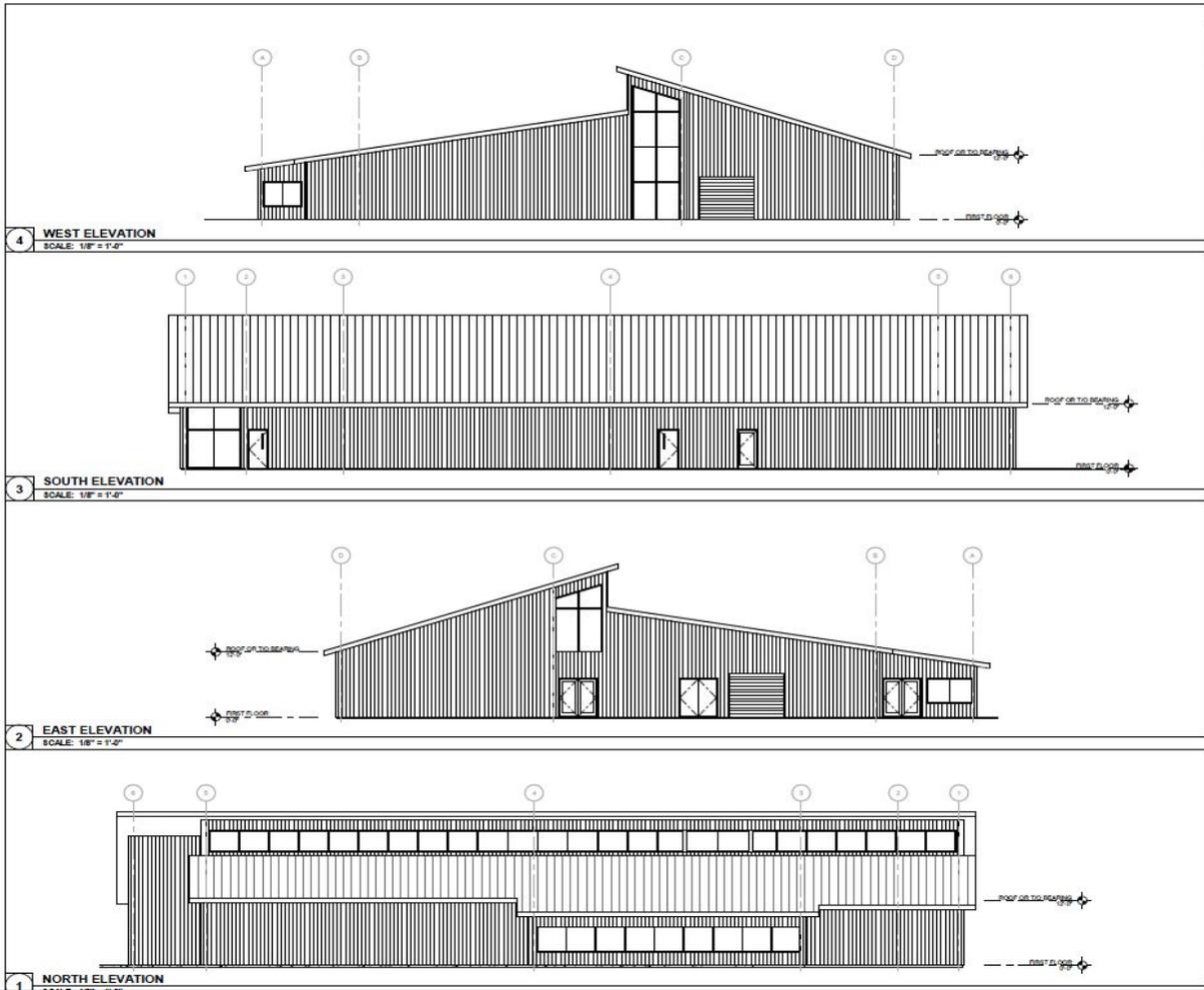
### January 26, 2026

- Design awarded to Farnsworth Group
  - 10% design **completed** February 26th
  - 60% design due June 19th
  - 100% design due February 17th









# Initial Estimates

## Range

- \$4,000,000

## Range Support Building

- \$4,500,000

## Parking Lot

- \$500,000

