



NEWS

from the City of Lakeville, Minnesota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FiRST Center to Enhance Regional Public Safety Training in South Metro Area

Lakeville, MN, April 23, 2024—The FiRST Center, or First Responder Skills Training Center, is set to become a pivotal regional public safety training facility catering to public safety personnel in the south metro area and neighboring cities and counties. Located within the Lakeville Airlake Industrial Park, the Center will be constructed on the City of Lakeville's former Public Works property.

Presently, public safety personnel rely on local businesses, schools and temporary facilities for training purposes due to the absence of a permanent facility meeting all their training and classroom requirements.

The proposed state-of-the-art facility, spanning approximately 40,000 square feet, will offer physical and virtual training areas, providing first responders with the opportunity to simulate realistic scenarios. It will also feature classroom and meeting spaces, tactical training facilities for fire, police and EMS, and a firing range.

The support for this initiative spans numerous jurisdictions within Dakota County and the south metro area, including the cities of Burnsville, Apple Valley, Farmington, Northfield, Eagan and Rosemount.

In 2023, the State of Minnesota allocated \$7.17 million in grant funding for the capital investment. An additional \$800,000 in Federal 2024 funding from a process known as "Congressionally Directed Spending" will be utilized for the development of final designs, plans and specifications.

The establishment of this facility will significantly enhance the training capabilities of local law enforcement, fire departments and EMS agencies, ensuring consistent and routine training for public safety officers and employees. Moreover, it will contribute to the increased ability of first responders and public safety personnel to maintain certifications and serve their communities effectively.

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About FiRST Center: The FiRST Center, or First Responder Skills Training Center, is a forthcoming regional public safety training facility aimed at providing comprehensive training opportunities for public safety personnel in the south metro area and adjacent regions. Located within the Lakeville Airlake Industrial Park, the Center will offer state-of-the-art training facilities and resources to enhance the capabilities of first responders and law enforcement agencies.

About Lakeville: Situated in the southern suburbs of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area, the City of Lakeville is the largest city in Dakota County with a population of 73,828.