



Details emerge about KC East Patrol crime lab's busted budget

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KANSAS CITY, MO (KCTV) - The city has long said that a new crime lab is necessary, and all expectations were that it was going to be expensive.

But new figures recently released show the project to be about \$20 million over budget.

Among the most expensive aspects of the East Patrol campus are \$4.6 million for acquisition, \$8.5 million for consultants and \$5.9 million for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

That is just a portion of the \$23.7 million in what the city calls "soft costs."

"Every project has soft costs. The issue we ran into on this one is that the soft costs have been larger than what we expected or what we budgeted for originally," city Spokesman Danny Rotert said.

The original four-block state-of-the-art campus at East 27th Street and Prospect Avenue was budgeted at \$57 million, paid for by the city's 2010 public safety sales tax renewal.

But the "soft costs" caused it to swell to a whopping \$74 million. Rotert blames part of the spike on the acquisition phase.

"We bought a lot of property. We bought a lot of houses. There was a lot of negotiation going back and forth with those homeowners to accommodate them," Rotert said.

Councilman John Sharp said there is a need for how the city estimates their costs on the project.

"But having a state-of-the-art crime lab is the single-most important thing we can do to improve public safety," Sharp said.

Councilman Jermaine Reed, whose district will house the new police campus, echoed those sentiments Monday night.

"It is important that we focus and work very hard to get the project under control and that we fund it to its full capacity," Reed said.

Leaders are hoping city council members will approve the sale of other bonds to help pay for the overruns.

KCTV5's Dave Jordan tried to reach out the police department for a comment but never heard back.

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