



(SUBMITTED PHOTOS)

The Eden Prairie Police and Fire Departments new Mobile Command Center.

EP police and fire departments secure new Mobile Command Center

$1.2M vehicle to aid response efforts in EP and neighboring agencies

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The Eden Prairie police and fire departments unveiled a new Mobile Command Center (MCC) to Sen. Amy Klobuchar (DFL-Minn) and Rep. Kelly Morrison (DFL-Deephaven) at a special event on April 7.

The city of Eden Prairie secured $963,000 in funding through a U.S. Department of Justice Grant and covered the remaining costs through City Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funds and the sale of the preceding MCC that was in operation for 24 years. The total cost for the upgraded command center came to $1.2 million.

Former U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips, who served the 3rd District from 2019-24 along with and Sen. Tina Smith (DFL-Minn) and Klobuchar were instrumental to the city's success in obtaining federal funding.

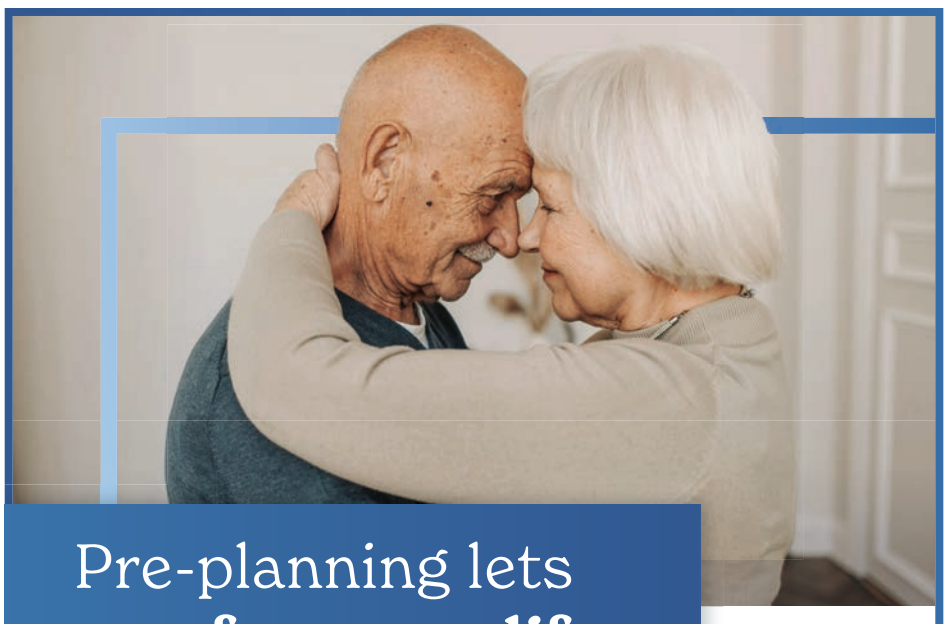
Key enhancements to the upgraded MCC include larger meeting and workspace areas; wireless sharing and streaming capabilities; a communications and electronics closet to support various technologies; and a high-definition, 360-degree camera system, according to a notice by the city.

"The other [MCC] was definitely smaller. It was a very small room in the back. You could probably seat, probably, three people at a small table and then there's a couple workstations in the front," Police Chief Matt Sackett said. "So it had served a good purpose, it was nearing the end of its youthful life on a replacement cycle. The new one [was] trying to go for this funding and make it more of a joint police and fire asset and available to the region for large scale emergencies. It's a much larger one."

The command center supports response efforts during community events, natural disasters and critical incidents, and is available to neighboring agencies during large-scale regional emergencies—including Edina, Hopkins, Minnetonka and St. Louis Park. With the upgraded vehicle, the city hopes to boost regional partnerships and emergency response capabilities.

"We've always had it out [on] July Fourth, Schooner Days, some of the bigger events that go on in our community. But it also is available and has been out and deployed on larger-scale emergencies, long investigations, things like that. So this one is just definitely much bigger, but much more useful for doing its actual job of a mobile command area," Sackett said.

The MCC officially began service on March 11 and will also be available for public viewing at the citywide open house on Saturday, Oct. 3.



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