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CITY MANAGER
Stan Brown

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Oakwood police moving to City Hall

The Oakwood Police Department will soon be sharing quarters with the City Hall and municipal court, City Manager Stan Brown said.

The move from the police department's Main Street building makes sense, he said.

"We've got half the building open anyway; it just makes logical sense to relocate the police department to City Hall," Brown said.

The space was built to accommodate the police department in the future. And with a small staff and officers frequently out and about, office crowding shouldn't be an issue, he said.

The department has 16 employees: 14 sworn officers and two full-time civilian clerks.

Police Chief Randall Moon confirmed the department would be making the move, but deferred further comment to Brown.

Brown said the building's state of disrepair prompted the move.

"The building over there has a lot of repairs that need to be done to it," Brown said. "There's its age, there's mold, the HVAC equipment is nearing the end of its life, as well as electrical issues."

Brown said the department should be operational in the Walnut Circle building by mid-January.

Centralizing city functions should benefit residents, he said.

"From a customer standpoint, it will be a one-stop situation for people who need services."

The city should save \$15,000 a year in utility costs, Brown said.

"Basically this will put us all under one roof and help us increase efficiency," he said. "We continue to look at ways to save money and be more efficient."

The city hasn't yet determined what to do with the old building, he added.

"We're basically just going to take it a step at a time. Once we get the relocation done, we'll evaluate it, see if there's an opportunity to repurpose," he said. "There are no immediate plans."