

EMS Facility

What we propose

Background

- At the June 25, 2013 meeting, the City Council was presented with an idea for a potential ambulance facility. It was at that time, the Council requested that a committee be formed with the city administrator, mayor, fire chief, and ambulance director as members. The committee was to meet and review past and current options available to the community, as it was indicated that a joint use facility had been studied and mapped out in 2008.
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- As part of that process, the committee reviewed the needs and current issues facing both departments. Overall, the current outdated facilities do not meet the needs/standards for operation in crisis events. A past list of items was reviewed and is included in the packet along with the directive as listed by the 2011 Emergency Operations Plan to have the fire hall utilized as the Emergency Operations Center.

Fire Department Review

- A review of sites including the current fire hall location and the space behind city hall were reviewed for threats, advantages, and opportunities. Because of the ability to reuse the existing structure of 4,116 square feet, the current fire hall site was determined to be the best location for the fire department. Some of the factors cited were the central and historical location, even response times for responders, proximity to major arterial transportation line with easy access to areas of city, not too close to a residential district, future growth potential with adjoining areas, as well as city's prior investment in adjacent property.

Ambulance Review

- Since 2003, the call volume of the ambulance department has increased from 242 to 409 calls (2012). For ambulance, it was discussed that the space behind city hall may work, but that the location was not prime and that it did not allow for easy access to a main arterial transportation route. Cost of total construction was also factored and the committee felt the amount made it cost prohibitive. It was determined that visibility was a high priority for guests, visitors, or out-of-town travelers. While the Downtown Motel location would work as a possible alternative, both departments agreed that a joint-use facility would save both departments on individual maintenance/operation costs in addition to adding to better training and understanding of EMS services.

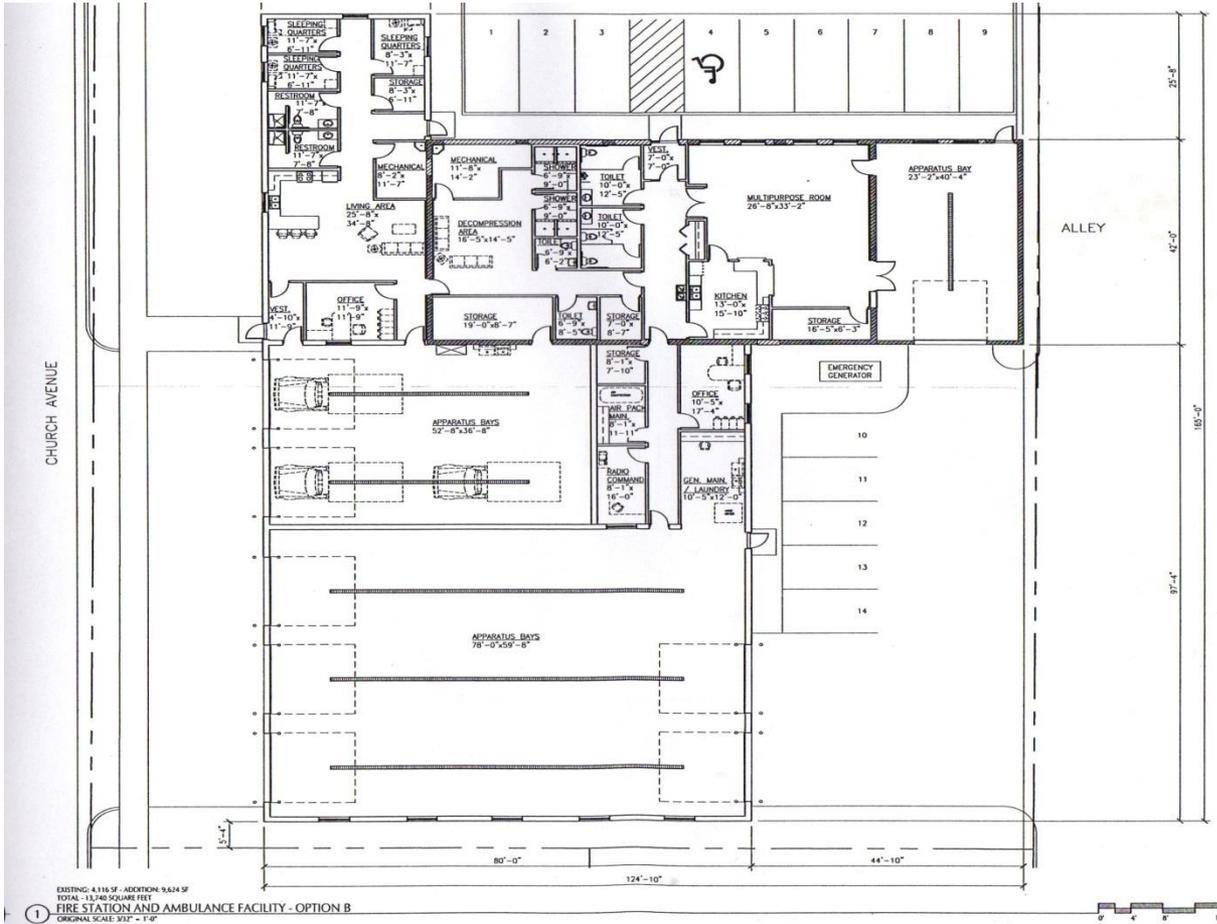
Additional Information

- As the committee reviewed its needs, it also began to review past crisis events and evaluated the possibility for interagency/intergovernmental needs. The committee has started conversations to review potential partnerships for services. Winona County has been approached and the committee has asked whether or not there are needs that a potential facility of this nature might provide as a multi-use facility.
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- Mike Peterson from the Winona County Law Enforcement Center and current Emergency Management Director has been approached and a precursory review of the idea has been well received. Further discussions may be planned dependent on the city's direction.

Review Of 2008 Plan

- The committee then began reviewing the past plans that were drafted by architectural+design group CRW. Plans were scrutinized by the committee and resent to CRW for modifications that would enhance the usability of the facility. The plans presented for the renovation and addition of the Downtown Motel were estimated at \$504,000.
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- If utilizing the space behind City Hall for the ambulance facility as an option for the roughly 5,900 square feet of new construction (not including concrete work), it is estimated at approximately \$737,500, which made it cost prohibitive.
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- An option B plan for fire department only, that included the remodeling of 4,618 square feet and 5,591 square feet of new construction at the existing fire hall was estimated at \$1,262,709 (includes 8 percent engineering costs).
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- The 2014 estimated remodel and addition for both fire and ambulance departments (including engineering fees) is roughly \$1,800,000 (See exhibits included). The committee concluded that long term benefits as well as cost savings made the joint-use facility the most efficient and effective option at this time.

2008 Plan



EXISTING: 4,116 SF - ADDITION: 8,624 SF
 TOTAL: 12,740 SQUARE FEET
 FIRE STATION AND AMBULANCE FACILITY - OPTION B
 ORIGINAL SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"



13 738 soft

Funding Options

- Existing Reserves designated by Fire/Ambulance
- Bonds
- County Loan
- Levy/Taxes
- Combination

Fire Department Concerns

- **SAFETY CONCERNS**
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- -Decontamination of gear and persons a strong concern for safety of personnel with blood borne pathogens or other hazardous materials. No current shower/washing facilities for first responders. In addition, current decontamination facilities for gear allows for only one set to be washed at a time. It could take several days for volunteers to prep gear in readiness for the next call.
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- -Two kitchen sinks currently serve as the decontamination facility for the entire department. Firemen must clean their masks and other pieces in the sink.
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- -No air exchangers currently available.
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- -Airpac maintenance must be done on bench or more commonly performed on floor space, but it has been noted that this would then could potentially contaminate other areas.
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- -No biohazard disposal.

Fire Department Concerns -2

- **RESTRICTIONS/CONSTRAINTS OF ANTIQUATED FACILITY**
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- -Flood pointed out issue of essentially no communication lines. Current fire hall has one phone line and one computer line which does not allow the fire hall to serve as a command center as the NIMS training indicates.
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- -Trucks have literally outgrown the building. Future truck purchases would need to be specially ordered or only certain units would be viable options which could result in added expense.
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- -St. Charles is designated as the backup communications for Winona County, however the current communications and facility would not currently fulfill the expectation.
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- -Current facility not handicap accessible, nor user friendly. Bathroom facilities not handicap accessible.
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- -Lack of training space and ability to use of current technologies limited due to age of building and lack of necessary equipment.

Fire Department Concerns - 3

- **GENERAL MAINTENANCE CONCERNS**
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- -Floor drains in the apparatus bay fill with sand thereby plugging the one east-to-west drain due to no slope.
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- -Continuous cracking in foundation and walls of fire hall due to age of facility.
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- -Current roof is in need of repair.
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- -Front apron cracked thereby needing replacement.
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- -Inefficient heating system which is exacerbated by service door entries that are rotted, not air tight.
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- -Meeting room currently houses 28 volunteer fire fighters, however fire codes regulate that the maximum room occupancy is only rated for approximately 15 people.
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- -Lack of storage restricts purchases because of lack of space.
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- -Maintenance of trucks must be done outside due to lack of space

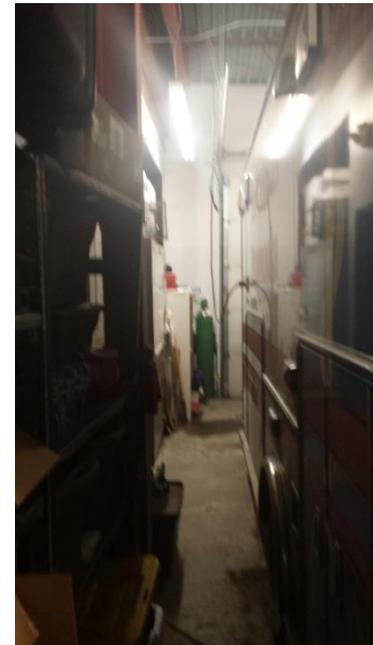
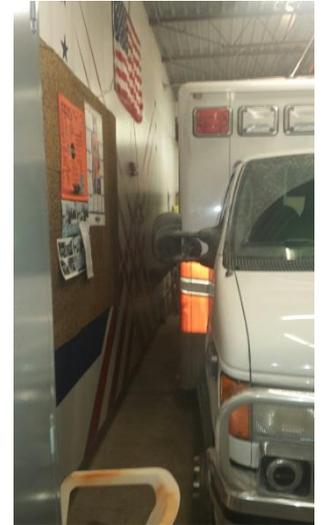
Ambulance Concerns

- -With a lack of facility space the current ambulance service is restricted in the size of its rig growth due to lack of space to store additional units. Similar services currently operate with two units. 2007 and 2008 call demand has demonstrated the ability to fund two units, but without housing space that reality cannot be realized.
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- -Currently EMTs are housed in an older residential unit which unfortunately always proposes a risk to fire or injury. Additional living quarters in a commercially built facility would reduce that potential risk. It is of course unclear how the structure of volunteers within any organization will work, however as the department continues to strive toward becoming ALS certified it could eventually offer the area the possibility of full-time Paramedics.
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- -Ambulance department currently holds trainings either in the community center or goes off-site for training. A committed space would allow the department to begin to hold trainings of its own such as EMT certification for other communities and potentially earn revenue.
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- -General storage of safety and training gear is at a premium and much of the expensive equipment is susceptible to moisture and heat as it stays in the garage area.

Police Department Concerns

- -Another aspect that combining the departments allows the City is the eventual ability to expand the police department operations space. Should the City ever decide to expand to more full-time officers in order to reduce the use of part-time personnel, officers are currently only able to work on two computers. Of course in some instances only one officer may be able to work on a particular program at one time.
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- -In addition, we have police units that currently sit outside and unattended. The current Council has expressed the need to expand the fleet of units for the police department as a result of repairs and maintenance that continually puts 50 percent of our ability to serve the community out of service. Storing these units inside will minimize these cars from exposure to the elements if only one vehicle is operating at a time.
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Ambulance Existing Facilities



Police Department Proposed

- By Combining/Expanding current EMS facility we would be able to retrofit the existing ambulance facility to better serve the police department.
- A separate entrance would be created.
- Better evidence storage would be allowed
- Separate meeting rooms would be created.
- Better officers facilities

Some Numbers

Ambulance calls: (Ambulance started in 1972)

- 407-2012 (256 medical / 151 trauma)
- 355-2011
- 353-2010
- 362-2009
- 322-2008

Fire calls—2012

- 17 structure
- 7 wildland fire
- 6 car fire
- 2 mutual aid
- 4 alarms without fire
- 11 rescue/ motor vehicle accidents
- 2 land zone

Questions/Concerns

- Thank you for your time
- Why are we here?
- What questions do you have?