

1. The current facility was built in 1968 to house only one (1) fulltime firefighter as all other members were “on-call” and not housed or working out of the station. The department now employs five full-time (5) employees M-F with three (3) members on duty 24/7.

- a. The station was never designed with future needs in mind; it’s evident that in 1968, nobody anticipated today’s modern day fire department to provide paramedic-level EMS that requires the staffing level that we see today. Nor did it anticipate fire apparatus changing in size and design, or the changing dynamics of the fire service, what we now respond to when it comes to modern-day calls and the general increase in our responsibilities. Back then, there was not even an expectation that an Emergency Operations Center would be a need for each municipality.
- b. And in 1968 – no one anticipated that female firefighters would even be a reality; females in the fire service would be a part of a lady’s auxiliary, where they would provide refreshments and support to their male counterpart.
- c. There was no accommodation for additional space to meet the needs of today’s clerical duties and include administrative offices for staff members, fire prevention duties, an administrative assistant, etc.
- d. Currently chief and deputy chief’s offices are located in the apparatus bay, as the station was never designed with these offices in mind. Administrative duties are disrupted with noise pollution from running apparatus and there’s extremely limited space (as these offices were originally a tool room and small kitchen converted to these offices as the department grew).
- e. There is no room to allow for meeting space or additional staffing of off-duty firefighters during large scale emergencies – during long-duration storm events where members have been on duty for consecutive days, members were forced to sleep in apparatus or in the ambulance on the stretcher as there are no additional bunk accommodations.
- f. It’s clear, we suffer greatly from insufficient office, working and living space to meet the daily operational needs of all staff. The list is as follows:

2. The bi-products of today’s fires are considered as hazardous materials - there is NO proper decontamination area for firefighters following return from fires or medical calls.

- a. There is only one (1) shower stall, located in the open hallway adjacent to the kitchen and eating area. This requires contaminated firefighters to walk-through clean-living areas to wash themselves.
- b. With only one (1) shower available, leaves other members unable to properly decontaminate themselves in a timely manner, allowing cancer-causing carcinogens to remain on their persons for longer periods of time.

- 3. There is NO gender separation - separate bunk space, locker room or bathroom facilities for female employees.**
- 4. There is NO space to adequately conduct plans review with the public or storage for these plans.**
- 5. There is NO EMS storage room – EMS supplies are kept in the kitchen.**
- 6. There is NO SCBA work room, no tool or maintenance area for equipment as these were lost to make room for administrative offices.**
- 7. There is NO conference area for staff to meet with the public – currently we meet in the kitchen (unprofessional setting) or in noisy offices where firefighters are working in the bays.**
- 8. There is NO fitness room with equipment.**
- 9. There are Insufficient bathroom facilities for the number of members on duty.**
 - a. There is one private toilet for 5 members on duty
 - b. One toilet is located in an open hallway and not used due to lack of privacy
- 10. There is inadequate bay space for existing apparatus and equipment storage.**
- 11. There is NO gear room for FF gear – the protective gear is stored in the bay where it's exposed to sunlight and ambient light which contributes to premature degradation of this PPE, causing the department to expend additional monies for the replacement of damaged gear.**
- 12. No training area for firefighters within the apparatus bay, limiting the kind of skills training that can occur to safely educate our firefighters in the protection of their lives and that of the public.**
- 13. There is little-to-no additional space for needed equipment, like an air-filling station for our air bottles, limiting how much firefighters can train or how they get air filled following a fire.**
- 14. The older and shorter door height of the station limits apparatus replacement needs, as existing doors were constructed when apparatus height was much shorter than current designs.**
- 15. There is NO space for I.T. equipment or other FD equipment storage; the I.T. and storage space for spare gear is in the attic with extreme temperature differences. Employees and I.T. contractors have to balance themselves on ceiling rafters to access this equipment. Recently, we had an employee almost fall through the ceiling when he lost his footing on a rafter which could've resulted in a lost-time injury.**
- 16. The station's front exterior wall has shown evidence of separation from the building.**

17. Lastly, and quite concerning - the existing roof structure is not covered by the town's insurance carrier due to weakened trusses. This was determined back in 2013 or '14 from an engineer's report. The trusses are so weak that the roof cannot withstand a heavy snow load in the winter. This requires contractors to come in after any snowstorm to shovel off the roof for any snow accumulation of 6" or greater. As history has shown, it can take days to get a company to come in for snow removal, leaving the unsafe weight on the roof.

- a. This means that town employees are having to work under a weakened roof structure, placing their safety at risk and then eliminates the ability for the department to continue its services if there was a catastrophic collapse.
- b. When contractors are removing snow from the roof, the large amounts of snow is then falling onto the parked cars along the side of the station's public and employee parking during business hours. Vehicles cannot be moved as there is no additional parking spaces to accommodate these vehicles.