

# BUILDING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN



**THE CHALLENGE**—The current fire station was built in 1963 and is functionally obsolete. It is not cost effective or even possible to correct the functionality issues in the current building. Firefighting has changed tremendously in the past 58 years, and the community needs have grown to the point where we need a new Fire Station in Brownsville. The existing Fire Station does not meet current regulations and standards necessary to keep our first responders safe and lacks the space required to make emergency calls safely and efficiently. Many newer pieces of fire apparatus will no longer fit into the bays of the current fire station. This will continue to be an issue as the need to replace old trucks arises in the coming years.

The current location, on Clark Street in the middle of town, has no land to conduct outside training and no room for expansion. The current training/meeting room is also extremely undersized for the needs of the fire company.

But even more pressing in the desire to relocate are safety issues present in our current location.

- The current fire station lacks a decontamination area to keep our responders healthy, and adequate parking for members when they respond to calls. This is a huge potential hazard.
- There is insufficient area to properly maintain equipment without blocking the sidewalk or roadway. Blocking sidewalk is unlawful and forces pedestrians to walk in the street when passing the fire station.
- Inside the station, there is not enough space between the firefighters' lockers and the various fire apparatus. Firefighters have approximately 18 inches of space in which to don their gear while trucks are rolling out past them.
- The building lacks enough truck bays to make it emergency efficient, since trucks need to be moved around when responding to MABAS (mutual aid) and other calls that only require certain apparatus. This wastes precious response time.
- The current location requires apparatus to enter Main Street at a congested intersection, which has visibility issues for both motorists and responding fire apparatus.

**THE RECOMMENDED SOLUTION** – In April of 2016, the Brownsville Fire Company put together a committee to develop a 10-year plan to build a new home for our fire company which will help us provide improved fire and EMS service to our community. The plan is to position ourselves as an emergency responding hub, with facilities that can withstand any changes or consolidations in fire service that may occur in the coming years. We found the best location to meet our needs is the proposed location on Oaklane Road. Pat and MarySue Michels have jump started our project, as they very graciously donated this parcel of land for our new fire station!! That first hurdle—where to put the building-- has already been cleared.

The visibility at the new location on Oaklane Road is ideal for apparatus drivers and motorists alike. Also, the buildings at the Main Street and Oaklane Road intersection are set back well off the roadway and offer great visibility for entering State Highway 49 (Main Street).

The building committee has worked diligently with Cedar Corporation architects to determine the best and most cost-effective plans for a new fire station. The recommended plans are for a 16,000 sq ft masonry building.

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The backing up of apparatus is one of the most common causes of personal injury in the firefighting industry. So we designed overhead doors on the west and east side of the building to allow drive through bays to take away the need to back apparatus into the station and thus avoid the backing hazard altogether.

The new station will have decontamination capabilities, a sufficient kitchen, a comfortable meeting/community room, mezzanine storage and a work/shop area. The new station is also designed for enough room to conduct some indoor tactical training without needing to move trucks. Since this is a masonry building, areas within the building will be considered storm shelter for our first responders and citizens alike.

## THE PLANS



Proposed New Building

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**FIRE COMPANY BUDGET**- The Fire Company currently operates within a \$98,000/year budget. We currently contract with four municipalities (Village of Brownsville, Town of Lomira, Town of LeRoy, Town of Byron), and each municipality pays \$24,000 for fire protection, fire prevention, and EMS service. That \$24,000 goes on the tax roll for each municipality. Of the funds received each year, we earmark \$24,000/year for 'capital improvement' which includes apparatus purchases, major building/apparatus repairs, and the new building fund. We currently have \$200,000 in this capital improvement fund.

Along with the set budget, the Fire Company also conducts fundraising events to keep the budget reasonable. The 'Fire in the Hole' golf outing, Casino Night, Soup Sampler, and Cash Raffle are our main fundraisers for the year, netting an additional \$25,000/year above budget. This fund raised money is earmarked for replacing Personal Protective Equipment, EMS equipment, SCBA, Thermal Imaging Cameras, Nozzles, and Traffic Safety Equipment.

**FINANCIAL PLAN**- The cost estimate as proposed for the building is \$3.1 million. The Fire Company presently has \$200,000 that can be applied to the project. The capital campaign will begin in earnest as we look to the community to take the next step by considering a contribution to help fund this project.

## PROJECTED COSTS

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION	\$2,265,975
SITWORK	\$130,500
MECHANICAL/HVAC	\$300,600
PLUMBING	\$109,350
ELECTRICAL	\$302,400
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATE</b>	<b>\$3,081,825</b>

## FAQS

Q: Seems expensive . . . is this in line with other new fire stations?

A: We are definitely in the ballpark with other new volunteer fire stations. A masonry building does increase the up-front cost, but doing so increases the building's life expectancy 75 years with little maintenance while offering a community storm shelter.

Q: Why do you need doors on both sides of the building?

A: Having doors on both sides of the apparatus bay allows us to drive into the building to park the apparatus and removes the need to back apparatus into the building. Studies show that many accidents and bodily injuries occur when backing apparatus. This is a very common design feature in recently constructed fire stations.

Q: Does the Fire Company have any money saved for this building?

A: We currently have \$200,000 available in our Capital Improvement Fund for this project.

Q: Why are you locating the new fire station on the edge of town?

A: The 3 acres of land we plan on using on Oaklane Road was generously donated to the Fire Company by Pat and MarySue Michels. After much discussion with the Michels, it was decided that this location can best serve Brownsville and neighboring communities.

# BUILDING INTO THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN

## CAMPAIGN & FIRE COMPANY LEADERSHIP

### CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Jeff Bloch - Mike Emmer - Randy Faber  
Jenifer Oechsner - Amy Thomas - Kelly Thomas

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>President</i>	Brian Meyer
<i>Vice President</i>	Bob Dabringer
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Bloch
<i>Secretary</i>	Troy Kemmel
<i>Director</i>	Randy Faber
<i>Director</i>	Jeremy Desotell
<i>Director</i>	Randy Haefs

### FIRE OFFICERS

<i>Fire Chief</i>	Kelly Thomas
<i>Assistant Fire Chief</i>	Dustin Westphal
<i>Captain</i>	Jeff Bloch
<i>Captain</i>	Brian Fane
<i>Lieutenant</i>	Justin Belling
<i>Lieutenant</i>	Colton St. Mary
<i>Safety Officer</i>	Brad Seymour

## LEVELS OF GIVING & GIFT SCALE

Donations over \$1000 are eligible to be recognized on a permanent donor "Wall of Fame" in the entry hall of the new fire house. Maximum of 15 characters and spaces per line. Naming plates will be inscribed as requested by donors and shall be limited to names of people, families, businesses or organizations; this includes "in memory of" and "in honor of" wording.

## CAMPAIGN GIFT SCALE

<b>Pledge at Least</b>	<b>To Become</b>
<b>\$ 500</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>\$ 1,000</b>	<b>Supporter</b>
<b>\$ 2,500</b>	<b>Contributor</b>
<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>
<b>\$ 25,000</b>	<b>Charter</b>

Pledges can be paid over a three-year term. We can also offer a monthly credit card donation if you wish to do a recurring gift.

Many people join a volunteer fire service to serve the community and hope some point to have a chance to be a "hero." Almost everyone has seen a photo or a rendering of a firefighter dressed in his/her gear and air pack busting through a cloud of smoke carrying a child to safety. While almost every volunteer would love to have the opportunity to live that scenario, realistically a volunteer firefighter may never have the chance to even enter a burning building, much less rescue a child. But that does not mean that we do not train for these situations. Our firefighters spend over 900 hours of training each year. Our EMS personnel put in over 400 hours of EMS training/year as well. Our team is very dedicated to making sure we are ready to respond and react to an emergency in a quick and professional manor. Our team could always use more "heroes." **Consider joining our team--The Brownsville Fire Company.**