



Town of Freedom Facilities Fact Sheet

A Facilities Plan for Now and the Future

The Town of Freedom facilities were last updated in 2008 when voters approved a short-term / least costly option in an advisory referendum. That project was seen as a 10-to-15 year temporary fix for town facilities. That project is now approaching 10 years and many shortcomings have been identified in the current facilities. In addition, Freedom continues to grow with a population that now tops 6,000 residents.

Fire Department

The current fire department has many shortcomings that impact the effectiveness of the firefighting efforts. Proper facilities are needed to be able to house and maintain the equipment and provide the proper training that is necessary for today's firefighting efforts. Among the most serious shortcomings:

- Fire equipment must be pulled into the street and partially block traffic when responding to and returning from calls.
- Various pieces of firefighting equipment are stacked in the garage and must be jockeyed around before they can be used, increasing response times.
- There is not enough room between front of the building and the street to park a truck outside. Trucks sometimes have to be parked on church property, if there's room.
- A new fire engine is needed, but there is not enough room in the existing building.
- Overall truck parking inside is too close – the doors of the trucks often hit each other
- There is not enough parking available when there's a fire call, with only about 10 spaces available for possible staff of 30+. If there's an event at the church or other nearby buildings, there may not be spots available for Fire/EMS personnel.
- There is very limited area for any maintenance work.
- There is no room to set up a designated Emergency Operations Center to use during a storm or other disaster.
- There is not enough space to repack hose, roll hose and build hose packs. Must roll through doorway into meeting hall when weather is bad.
- With no space to test hoses or pumps, the church property must be used. Last year, the annual hose testing was done the same day as a funeral at the church, a bad reflection on the Fire Department.
- There's little room for storing public education props and no room for training props which are stored off site.
- There is no separate meeting area for Fire or EMS personnel creating scheduling conflicts and interruption during other meetings.
- The light tower and UTV must be parked behind the water truck making access difficult.

Police Department

The current Police Department has gone through several reconfigurations to accommodate personnel and equipment. While this strategy has gotten the department through the past several years, the functionality and safety needs of the facility and staff are too large for a piecemeal fix.

- The confidentiality of victims is difficult to maintain due to the size and arrangement of the current Police Department lobby.
- Evidence storage space is very limited and is well below the space requirements for a Police Department of this size.
- The reporting and resume area has to double as the evidence recording area.
- There are no dedicated and secure hard interview rooms or holding area.
- There are no soft interview rooms or family room.
- The parking garage is limited to two squad cars.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Like the Fire and Police Departments, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) needs additional space to operate efficiently and effectively to provide the services that are needed by Town of Freedom residents.

- Due to lack of storage space, medical supplies, training props and equipment must be stored at the homes of EMS staff members.
- The UTV is parked in the station behind other apparatus which has to be moved before the UTV can be accessed to respond to an emergency.
- There is no dedicated space for a rescue squad. Many of the EMS staff respond to calls using their personal vehicles
- There is no dedicated decontamination area where equipment or infected clothing can be cleaned.
- There is inadequate space to provide in-house training for CPR, First Aid and other EMS requirements.

Town Hall Administration Office

As Freedom continues to grow, additional staff has been hired to provide the services that Town residents expect and rely on.

- Office space is limited for the current number of Town employees.
- As the Town continues to grow, additional staff will be needed; additional space is not available.
- Existing office space is poorly lit and inefficient.
- There's a lack of space for records storage and general storage.
- Meeting space is limited, affecting Town meetings and its availability for community groups.
- Improved safety and security measures are needed for the service counter area.
- Security and phone equipment is located in a janitor's closet.
- Storage of paint and flammables is done in a mechanical room.

