

Amery's New Fire Hall is Multifunctional and Unique

Amery (population 2,874) is a city of lakes. The downtown area is bordered by North and South Twin Lakes on one side and Beaver Brook Lake on the other. Located in the heart of downtown and adjacent to the trail head of the Cattail Trail is the City's new fire hall.

When City Officials were faced with the challenge of building a new fire hall, they decided it should serve multiple purposes. In addition to a fire hall, they wanted it to serve as a storm-proof shelter and a trail head facility. To help ensure that the new building would have a classic style worthy of its prominent Main Street location, a local couple made a \$500,000 contribution to the project. Another family donated the building site.

The additional funding enabled Cedar Corporation, project architect, to recommend architectural pre-cast panel construction, which would meet the requirement for a storm-proof shelter, yet allow for more flexibility and creativity in design. Since pre-cast concrete panel construction is not common in this area, Cedar Corporation took City Officials on a field trip to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area to view facilities constructed of panels made by Wells Concrete Products Co. of Wells, Minnesota.

Convinced that architectural pre-cast panel construction was the way to go, the City of Amery authorized the new \$1.2 million, 11,200 square foot facility.

The new fire hall has several unique features. Most obvious are the two towers which serve both practical and historical functions. The tower on the right has a lift used for drying fire hoses. The tower over the main entrance houses the City's original fire bell, which was commissioned by the City in 1895. The overhead doors were designed with arches to add character.

Other unique features that make the facility multifunctional include a front lobby and reception area designed to accommodate trail users and downtown visitors. Amenities include public restrooms, vending machines and comfortable seating. Volunteers or City staff will be available at a reception desk to answer questions.

The new fire hall includes space for the largest new fire rigs, training facilities, kitchen, and separate men's and women's locker rooms and showers. A complete fitness room was paid for totally with funds raised by the fire crew.



The architectural pre-cast concrete panels, shown in the top photo, allowed the building to be fully enclosed in only two weeks, keeping construction costs down. The inviting lobby area for trail users and downtown visitors is shown in the lower photo.

The general contractor was Gene Johnson Construction Co., Inc. of Frederic, Wisconsin. For additional information about this project or an upcoming project in your community, please contact Gary Gust at Cedar Corporation, 1-800-472-7372 or 715-235-9081.

Prescott Builds New Facility for EMS and Police Department



The Police Department is located on the right side of the building, EMS is on the left side, and vehicle garages are in the center.



Shown above is Officer Tom Toston in the Police Department patrol room.

Prescott is a rapidly growing city along the Mississippi River where U.S. Highway 10 and State Highway 35 intersect at the Wisconsin-Minnesota border. The city's population, currently over 3,800, has increased by nearly 300 over the past 5 years, and the east side of the city has experienced a building boom along Highway 10.

In 1993, the City built a new municipal office building and Public Library just south of Highway 10 on Borner Street. A few years later, the Police Department moved in to what had been the Council Chambers. As a result, the Library's multi-purpose room and storage area were converted to Council Chambers.

When the Fire Department recently outgrew the space it was sharing with the Emergency Medical Service, the City decided to relocate the EMS. The solution was to build a new 11,160 square foot facility that would also house the Police Department, allowing the Library and City offices to reclaim their original spaces.

The new facility is a wood post and beam building with exterior metal liner panels and a standing seam metal roof. Porches were added to both the Police Department and EMS main entrances to enhance the design of the building.

The EMS side of the facility includes a large training room (shown below), a kitchen used for fundraising events, a break room, bunk rooms, and a large garage for vehicle storage.



Total cost of the EMS and Police Department facility was \$719,400. Cedar Corporation was the project architect and engineer. Olympic Builders of La Crosse was the general contractor.

Cedar Corporation will also be designing Prescott's Municipal Building and Library remodeling project now that the Police Department has moved out.

The Public Works Department also has outgrown its space, so the City purchased land for a new building, which Cedar Corporation will design.

For additional information about these projects or an upcoming project in your community, please contact Gary Gust at Cedar Corporation, 1-800-472-7372 or 715-235-9081.



Included in the Police Department side of the facility is a main lobby-reception area, offices (shown at left), patrol area, interview rooms, video equipment room, evidence room, training room, break room, and a large garage for vehicle storage.

Clear Lake's New Municipal Building Includes Public Library

Clear Lake is located in the southeast corner of Polk County and has a population of 1,067. Its municipal offices, Police Department, and Public Library were housed together for more than 80 years in the Village's original municipal building located a block from Main Street.

Over the years, portions of the original building served other purposes as well, such as a movie theater and an auditorium for High School graduation ceremonies.

A few years ago the library moved to a rented building on Main Street to provide more space for books and patrons. However, the Village Hall was still crowded and not accessible to the disabled. Costs to remodel and expand the building would not have been cost effective, so the Village decided to build a new municipal facility.

The Village was fortunate to be able to acquire land for the new building at no cost by trading it for the old municipal building. As an added bonus to the community, the old building has been restored and converted to a micro brewery.



With a new municipal facility, the Public Library will once again be housed with Village offices and Police Department. Part of the building's \$839,835 cost was covered by a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant, which was awarded for the library area.



The building's exterior materials include face brick on the upper portion and split block on the lower portion with a bullnose sill separating the two materials.

The impressive 8,520 square foot building includes a distinctive clock tower at the entrance and traditional arched doorway and windows. Its design and colors were selected as a historic tribute to the original brick Village Hall, which is located across the street.

To provide an abundance of natural lighting, large windows were included in the design. The largest window, which is at the front of the library, is 21 feet wide. Windows on the side of the library were placed high enough to allow for maximum stacking space.

The building is scheduled to open in July. Cedar Corporation was the project architect, engineer, and grant writer. Berghammer Builders of Clayton was the general contractor.

For additional information about this project or an upcoming project in your community, please contact Gary Gust at 1-800-472-7372 or 715-235-9081.

Infloor Heating and Interior Steel Liner Used in Amery's New Public Works Building

When the City of Amery needed a new public works building, John Frisco, Public Works Director, knew exactly what was needed. In addition to including adequate space in the new facility, he wanted efficient and consistent heat and a durable interior.

To achieve more comfortable, consistent heat, infloor heating was used throughout the building. Although infloor heating has a higher upfront cost than other heating systems, it has several advantages. One advantage is that it doesn't waste energy by trying to warm tremendous volumes of air. Heat radiating from the floor keeps people comfortably warm. In addition, it keeps the concrete floors dry, which reduces maintenance time and costs.

To provide a more durable interior, a steel liner was used on the shop walls of the pre-engineered steel building. The white finish helps to provide a bright work space.

The 11,200 square foot building cost \$580,000 excluding site improvements, which were completed by the City of Amery. Included in the new facility are offices, a training room, a break room, a warm repair garage with a mezzanine for storage, an internal wash bay, and a separate vehicle storage area that is kept cooler than the repair garage.

The building was completed in the fall of 2003. Cedar Corporation was the project architect and engineer. Bauman Construction of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin was the general contractor.



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