

2006

Problems With Fire Station Floor

Jeff Kossman of J K Architecture and Engineering looked at three different options and the associated costs necessary to fix the floor in the Fire Department garage or apparatus area that was cracking under the weight of the emergency vehicles.⁵⁰

One of the options included constructing a new building on one of the two city parking lots south of the Fire Department that would house the heaviest equipment which includes the new aerial platform truck and two tankers.

The other two proposals called for the basement under the Fire Department garage to be filled with a structured grid that would create a series of columns. One option would have filled 1,500 square feet of the basement and other 3,000 square feet.

Kossman was also looking at constructing a three-bay addition to the north end of the Fire Department but that proposal was withdrawn because the floor level drops three feet from

⁵⁰ *Watertown Daily Times*, 12 06 2006.

the building to Cady Street and firefighters would have a hard time turning onto Cady Street because of the size of the emergency vehicles.

The last engineering study that was done 10 years ago on the Fire Department floor, which is about 50 years old, showed that when the floor was constructed it was not built to what the modern standard is.

CROSS REFERENCE: Fire station floor problem originally note in 1997.

About 50 years ago the tanks on fire trucks were either 300 or 500 gallons, but today most of the tanks are now 1,000 gallons.

The Fire Department's new ambulances weigh 25,000 pounds each, which is more than twice what the previous ambulances weighed.

The Watertown Common Council decided to repair the cracking floor of the Fire Department garage with a carbon fiber reinforced fiberglass system, awarding the contract to Maas Brothers in Watertown for about \$387,000.⁵¹

The carbon fiber reinforced fiberglass system was more favorable because it will give more strength to the floor in addition to keeping the basement fully accessible. The carbon fiber reinforced fiberglass system was expected to permanently fix the cracking problem.

Time will tell.



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Workmen preparing rectangular areas in garage floor (between supporting columns in the basement below) for carbon fiber reinforced fiberglass matting and composite application.

⁵¹ *Watertown Daily Times*, 03 09 2007.



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Watertown Fire Department

150 Years

1857 - 2007



Ken Riedl

with

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