

Fire Department building a new garage to house trucks

Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos, USAWC Public Affairs

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New houses are going up everywhere on Carlisle Barracks but one of the newest “homes” being built is for two of its most important residents, the post fire engine and brush truck.



A frame is up for the new fire station garage that is being built next to the existing fire station. The garage will house the post fire engine and brush truck because of safety concerns with the current building. *Photo by Staff Sgt. Corey Baltos.*

A new garage that is scheduled for completion in October is being built that will house the stations’ two trucks. The trucks are currently parked outside of the station because of safety concerns with the current building.

“Building a new emergency services center is the number one construction priority for Carlisle Barracks,” said Lt. Col. Janet Holliday, garrison commander. “There is a crack in the floor that has required us to install steel beams underneath the fire department bay. From a safety perspective, we can no longer park the brush truck in the bay because of the floor.”

“The fire station was built in 1939,” said Fire Chief Jim O’Connell. “Back then fire engines weren’t as heavy. The trucks we have now are too heavy for the floor. The weight of the current engines supersedes the load bearing capacity by 23 percent which resulted in the station floor cracking.”

The firefighters are looking forward to having the new garage too.

“A new garage will be good because it will make it easier to back the trucks into the building and access the doors,” said fire fighter Pete Furfari Jr.

“When we park our engine in the current garage, there is literally no room to move around,” said firefighter Todd Hooper. “New fire

engines are longer and will not fit in this garage, but they will fit in the new one.” The new garage will have an area of 45 feet X 45 feet.

The garage is an interim solution until a new emergency services center is built. Plans for a new center have been submitted and are waiting funding. The fire department will continue to run day-to-day operations from the current building.

“A new facility would consolidate all of our fire equipment, provide adequate living space for the fire men who are on 24-hour shifts, and allow us to have a new, state-of-the-art- police station co-located with the fire facility,” said Holliday.

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