



VALLEY SUBURBAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 5

VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE



ANSWERING YOUR CALL

Dear friends and neighbors,

When you hear sirens in Valley, someone is getting help from volunteers – the guy you work with, the woman down the street, and the couple you see at the coffee shop. Valley’s emergency fire and rescue responders are among the 65% of all U.S. firefighters who serve their communities as unpaid volunteers.

This increasingly challenging job summoned our 40 trained members to respond to 618 calls in 2022, primarily in Valley, but also as mutual aid providers in Waterloo, Yutan, Bennington, Fremont, and Irvington. The number has increased year after year.

Today, Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5 (VFD) has specialized equipment to respond to fires, medical emergencies, natural disasters, vehicle accidents, water rescue, hazardous material incidents, and farm accidents. These 13 rescue apparatuses vie for space in the eight-bay garage on Church Street that was built in 1957 and expanded three times.

The planned facility on 270th and Meigs Streets will provide needed spaces, increased capacity, and a safer environment for firefighters. It will offer 13 apparatus bays, as well as a drive-through wash bay, training, fitness, and administration areas, and up-to-date ventilation and decontamination facilities.

As you know, the Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5 Board in May of 2022 approved plans to issue up to \$7 million in bond money to finance this new facility. This is a tremendous investment in our community and our residents’ safety. We are grateful for the Valley community’s ongoing confidence and support for training and the costly equipment needed to handle local emergencies.

Recent cost hikes have increased the project cost from \$7 million to \$10.1 million. In response, we have modified plans where possible, but want to fill this funding gap without having to secure additional capital through another bond.

We are now raising \$3.1 million in philanthropic dollars to build the station we need. We know this station is important to the quality-of-life Valley residents expect.

The information on the following pages illustrates the plans and the value and service Valley Fire and Rescue Station brings to this still-growing community. Thank you for investing in the safety and well-being of our fire and rescue volunteers and our community.

Sincerely,

Terry Luthy, II
Fire Chief
Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5

Amy Carlson
Board President,
Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5
Valley Volunteer Fire and Rescue Foundation, Inc.

VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE GROWS WITH THE CITY

The Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5 has grown from a few men pulling a water wagon in 1900 to having 40 trained women and men who protect more than 1,300 residences and more than 80 commercial sites in the city limits, as well as areas outside those borders.

By 1890, 378 residents called Valley home. Volunteers began a fire brigade that year and the Valley Hose Company was incorporated in December 1900. Their first equipment was a hook-and-ladder truck and hose cart pulled by the men. The first motorized fire truck came in 1923 when an American LaFrance truck offered hose and hook-and-ladder equipment in one vehicle.

The first fire station was built in 1903 on Gardiner Street and early fire chiefs included Alex Gardiner, N.E. Johnson, C.W. McMullen, and in 1922, Ray C. Decker, who served until his death in 1958.

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Between 2010 and 2020 Valley's population increased 62% from 1,875 to 3,037. Since then, it has increased another 11.5%, to 3,385 making Valley one of the faster-growing communities in Nebraska – with additional developments on the horizon.

NEBRASKA'S 5 FASTEST GROWING COMMUNITIES BY %

- 1 **MONOWI**
- 2 **VALLEY**
- 3 **HICKMAN**
- 4 **BENNET**
- 5 **WAVERLY**



First fire department meeting

First hook and ladder truck & hose cart purchased

First town hall & fire barn built on Gardiner Street

First Fire Chief, Alex Gardiner

First motorized equipment purchased – American LaFrance combination hose & ladder truck

Siren installed (still in use today)

Paging system installed to ring simultaneously in at least five firefighters' homes

Current fire station built at 210 W. Church St.

Valley & Rural Depts reorganized to become Valley Suburban Fire District No. 5

Terry Luthy II, a volunteer since 2009, becomes Fire Chief

1890 1900 1903 1923 1926 1957 1996 2021

TODAY'S VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

EMERGENCY CALLS

Year	Calls
2016	418
2017	495
2018	582
2019	744
2020	491
2021	566
2022	618

The number of fire and rescue calls increased by nearly 50% between 2016 (418) and 2022 (618), even though the pandemic years saw decreases when people stayed home more. But beyond those numbers, the types of emergencies firefighters and rescue personnel respond to are increasingly complex.

With more than 1,600 hours of annual training, the emergency responders are prepared for natural disasters, hazardous material incidents, terrorist activity, accidents, fires and medical emergencies. They also prepare for big and small natural disasters, vehicle accidents, hazardous material incidents, and more.

In 2022 Volunteers staffed the station for nearly 14,700 hours and devoted 177 hours to community events.

Those numbers include training on some of the 13 fire and rescue apparatuses in the fleet. This equipment, which costs anywhere from \$10,000 to \$750,000, now vies for space in the eight-bay garage on Church Street that was built in 1957 and expanded three times.

THE CHALLENGES THE FIRE AND RESCUE VOLUNTEERS FACE IN THE CURRENT FIRE HALL:

- ❗ Outdated facilities lacking space, technology, and resources needed to effectively address today's emergency response requirements.
- ❗ Limited capacity for housing equipment, training, administrative functions, and efficient operations.
- ❗ Safety concerns with outdated infrastructure and ventilation systems, cramped quarters, inadequate decontamination areas, and traffic concerns around the railroad tracks.



VOLUNTEER FIRE TRAINING

TOMORROW'S VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE

The Valley Volunteer Fire and Rescue Foundation's mission is to create a modern and efficient fire station that serves as a hub for dedicated volunteers, empowers them to respond to emergencies swiftly, effectively, and safely, and provides space, infrastructure, and resources to provide the highest level of service to the Valley Community and region for years to come.

Plans for the new, 32,000 square foot station at 270th and Meigs Streets have been thoughtfully laid out to:

- Meet today's and tomorrow's needs with 13 bays and ample storage for apparatuses and equipment, as well as training facilities, improved decontamination and restrooms, and administrative space.
- Provide quiet (sleeping) rooms on the second floor to ensure respite facilities in times of emergencies, and preparation for long-range planning if and when growth requires paid staff. The design includes two staircases as well as a fire pole to take volunteers quickly to the bays and equipment.
- An inviting and supportive environment to foster volunteer recruitment and retention, and share training facilities with other departments. This can also serve as command central during large-scale emergencies.
- Easy exit and entry to equipment bays with minimal sight and traffic constraints.



FEATURES OF THE NEW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE STATION

FIRST FLOOR FEATURES

- 13 Apparatus Bays
- Training and Command Center
- Report Room, Warming Room, Day Room, and Decontamination/Laundry
- A Drive-Thru Wash Bay
- Lobby and Reception Room
- Fitness Room
- Kitchen
- Chief's Office and Four Additional Offices
- Handicap Accessible Restrooms and Locker Rooms

SECOND FLOOR FEATURES

- Four Sleeping Rooms
- Four Quiet Rooms
- Unisex Restrooms with Showers
- Laundry
- Fire Pole
- Helipad



2 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



FINANCING

THE NEW VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE HALL

In May 2022, Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5 Board, approved plans to exercise its authority to issue bonds to finance the project at a cost of \$7 million. The architects and planners working on the new fire station have been thoughtful about its elements and costs, though post-pandemic supply issues and rising costs have pushed the initial estimate to \$10.1 million. \$7,120,000 in bonds were issued on July 1, 2022, with a 20-year term. Of those funds \$7M can be used for construction. The bond will secure a low interest rate for this initial funding. There are \$120,000 of required fees to secure the bond.

We expect an additional \$3.1 million will be needed to cover construction expenses. Should the station raise more in private funding that was issued in bonds, the station could consider buying back some of the bonds to avoid future interest charged.

Target occupancy date of late 2024.

SUPPORT YOUR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS BY PROVIDING

- 13 bays for all 13 fire vehicles
- Adequate training space and conference room
- Command center
- Adequate equipment
- rooms and rest areas for volunteers
- Better location for faster service times

WAYS TO SUPPORT VALLEY SUBURBAN FIRE DISTRICT NO.5

Gifts made to the Valley Volunteer Fire and Rescue Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)3 will help to construct the new fire station near 270th and Meigs Street, whether they are made as pledges over a three-year period or as a one-time gift. The Foundation can accept gifts of:

- **Cash, check credit card, or electronic transfer.** Credit card donors may elect to add a percentage to their gift to cover processing fees.
- **Appreciated assets** such as stock.
- **Donor-advised fund Transfers**, which can be directed to the campaign fund.
- **IRA distributions**, which can be sent directly to the campaign fund as an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution and may be applied to your Required Minimum Distribution.

- **Real estate or legacy planned gifts** which may be a current transfer of assets or a designation of the station among your beneficiaries for wills, insurance, IRA, or other financial instruments.
- **Grain or commodities** ownership can be transferred prior to sale with your grain or commodities dealer to follow IRS standards.

Please contact the station business manager at 402-720-2425 to facilitate through the Board's attorney any transfers of appreciated assets, real estate, grain or commodity gifts, or to discuss other gifts. We are ready to accept your gifts, but recommend donors consult with their attorney, accountant, or other financial adviser to assure your gift and the giving vehicle you are using is right for you.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING VALLEY FIRE & RESCUE'S NEW BUILDING FUND!

We appreciate your consideration of a gift toward this \$3.1 million fund drive to close the gap on the new fire station's costs. Together we are preparing Valley Suburban Fire Protection District No. 5 to serve this community for decades to come. Should you have any questions, please contact one of these foundation board members or Chief Luthy.

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