

***Q. What is the cost per square foot of the project? How does it compare to the cost/square foot in residential projects?***

A. Using square foot values – commonly used for residential projects - to analyze and compare different building projects, as explained by our professional team, is an inaccurate methodology which results in a misleading representation of a project's overall costs. Many items factor into a project's value, specific to the owner's particular use. Our project design incorporates special requirements necessary for a firehouse/emergency services project, site improvements either required by code or necessary to facilitate the operation of the facility, and regulatory requirements for a public works project.

The new firehouse/emergency services department is required to be constructed as a non-combustible building, which means that no materials used within the structure, including the roof, are made out of combustible materials, i.e. wood products. As such, the building construction will be of concrete, masonry, steel and light gauge metal framing. The apparatus bay requires a specialized ventilation exhaust system to extract the exhaust fumes from the trucks entering and exiting the building. The site's pavement sections need to be constructed to accommodate the weight of the fire trucks and equipment. The project must be fully ADA compliant and meet all NYS building, mechanical and electrical codes including the new energy code. In addition, a municipal project is required to be designed, bid and constructed in accordance with General Municipal Laws, which include Competitive Bidding Laws, Separate Specification Requirements also known as the Wicks Law, Bid/Performance Security (Bid, Performance, and Labor/Material Bond requirements). Moreover, we are required to ensure prevailing wage rates be paid to all tradespeople who work on the project. Additional information about Wicks Law and prevailing wage can be found on our website ([www.bedfordvillagefiredistrict.com](http://www.bedfordvillagefiredistrict.com) "New Firehouse" tab), but the central purpose of these regulations is to protect the public interest by guarding against favoritism, improvidence, extravagance, fraud and corruption; and to foster honest competition in order to obtain the best goods and services at the lowest possible price. All these factors bring costs to this project, unlike a residential or even a commercial project.

As part of the BVFD's commitment to prudent management, we retained a Construction Manager to provide complete, accurate and specific budgets for this REVISED project. The Construction Manager's budgeting experience, combined with his/their expertise in value engineering, will aid us in constructing this project for the lowest possible cost while ensuring the quality of the project is maintained and the building is able to serve us and the community well into the future.