



# CALEDONIA FIRE DISTRICT Revised Fire Hall Project Proposal



Dear Caledonia Fire District Residents,

On Tuesday, October 29, 2024, you will have an opportunity to vote on a revised capital project that would allow the Caledonia Fire District to build a new Fire Hall—one that is better suited than our current, undersized facility to serve the evolving needs of our community and our firefighters. The goal of this project is to optimize response times and outcomes with a more central location on Route 5, to secure much-needed additional space to accommodate our equipment and fleet, and to provide modern facilities to train our firefighters and support their health and safety.

We presented a similar project proposal earlier this year and received constructive feedback from the community when that project was voted down. To determine next steps and reevaluate our plan, we established a capital project advisory committee consisting of Fire District members and volunteers, community representatives, and professional consultants. We listened to our community's concerns and scaled back the original plan to reduce its overall cost and tax impact. The result is a modest new facility that is more narrow in scope and focuses on our most critical needs.

We, as your Fire District, remain committed to the safety and security of our community. Although our current Fire Hall has served our community and firefighters for the past 64 years, it is now our duty to adapt our facilities to meet the changing needs of the residents we serve. Now is the time to modernize and plan for the future. By investing in a new Fire Hall, we aim to strengthen our ability to serve you effectively and protect what matters most—your lives and property.

We encourage you to learn more about the revised project at the public hearing on October 22, and to cast your vote on October 29. Thank you,



James Dutton  
Chairman  
Board of Fire Commissioners



Mike Churchill  
District Fire Chief

## PROJECT GOALS

- New facility with modern capabilities to meet community's evolving needs**
- Strategic central location to optimize response times and better serve our community**
- Adequate storage and parking space for emergency vehicles, equipment, and operations**
- Improved training areas and health & safety accommodations for our firefighters**

## WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Reduced originally proposed project size and scope**
- Reduced overall project cost and tax impact to the community**

## IMPORTANT DATES

### PUBLIC HEARING

**When:** Tuesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.  
**Where:** J.W. Jones Hall, 366 Leicester Rd.

OCTOBER  
**22**  
TUESDAY

*Caledonia Fire District representatives and consultants will share information about the project and host an open community forum where the public can ask questions.*

## VOTE DAY

**When:** Tuesday, October 29  
3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
**Where:** J.W. Jones Hall  
366 Leicester Rd.

OCTOBER  
**29**  
TUESDAY

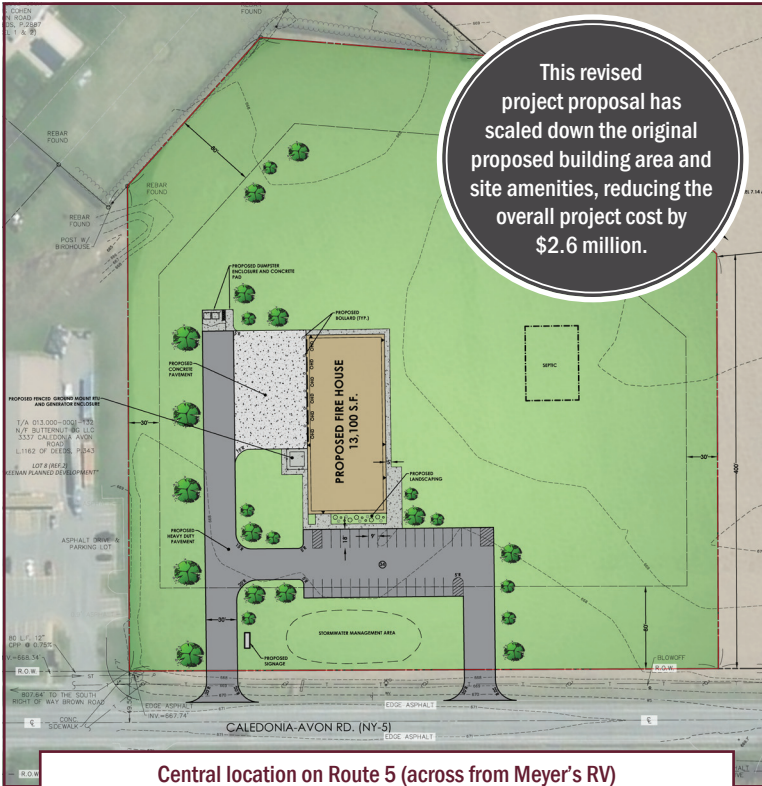
*Eligibility Requirements: Voters must be legally registered to vote within the Caledonia Fire District*

## Current Fire Hall - Challenges and Constraints

- Built in 1960, it is an aging facility that is no longer appropriately sized for today's industry standards, including larger fire apparatus, personnel, health and safety requirements, and training operations.
- The current Fire Hall is leased from the Village of Caledonia, not owned by the Fire District. Shared public lot also limits parking.
- It has insufficient restroom and shower facilities that are important for decontamination and reducing cancer risk to our firefighters.
- Its 3 vehicle bays are inadequate for housing current apparatus.



## PROPOSED NEW FIRE HALL - PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Central location on Route 5 (across from Meyer's RV) would optimize response times.

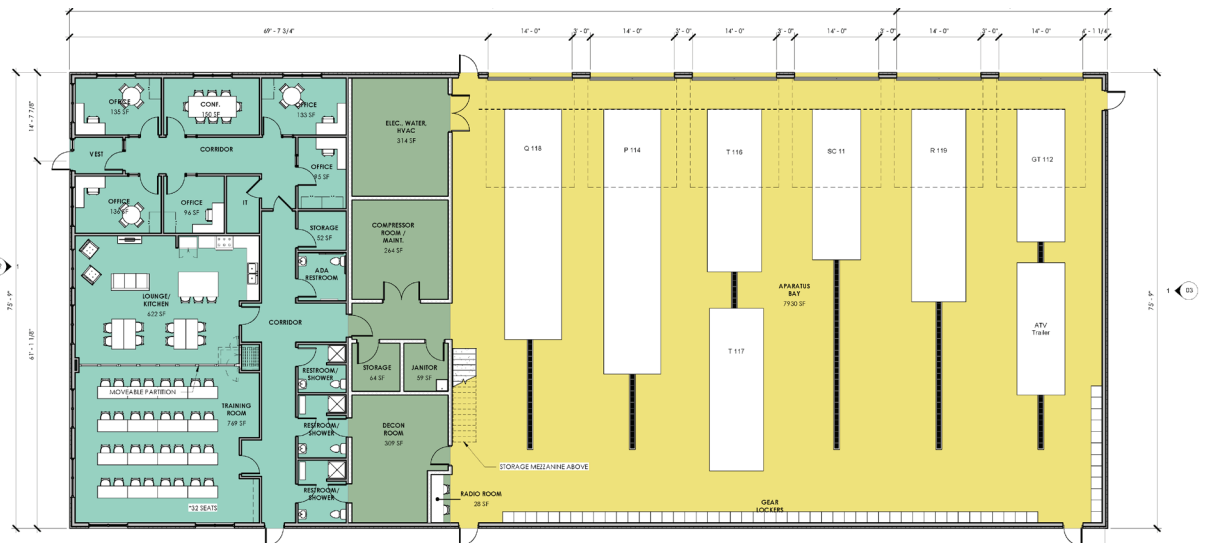
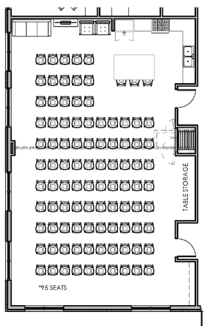
### Revised Project Proposal: Cost-Reduction Highlights

- Reduced building footprint by over 6,300 s.f. (roughly 1/3 smaller)
- Combined lounge and training rooms into a smaller and more flexible multi-purpose space
- Reduced size of offices (designated private space is required by HIPAA)
- Removed bunk rooms and large storage rooms
- Condensed spaces for bathrooms, lockers, and decontamination area
- Removed loop road and drive-through bay system
- Modified truck bay area to allow it also to be utilized for gear storage, radio room, and training activities
- Simplified HVAC and electrical systems to conventional type services



Conceptual rendering of vehicle bays

Multipurpose room with movable partition wall can be configured for meetings, training, lounge area, and more.

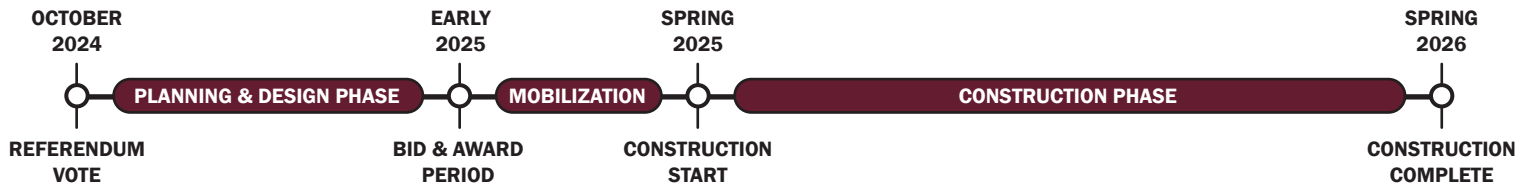


Six vehicle bays would provide adequate storage, protection, access, and service area spaces for firefighting vehicles, apparatus, and training.

2 MAX SEATING  
0 2 4 6 8 10  
1/8" = 1'-0"

1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
0 2 4 6 8 10  
1/8" = 1'-0"

# ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Why can't you continue using the current Fire Hall?

The current Fire Hall and Village offices were built together in 1960. While the Fire Hall has served us faithfully for the past 64 years, it has become too small to adequately support the evolving needs of our community and our firefighters. It lacks the modern features and technologies required for contemporary firefighting and emergency response, and its limited size hampers our ability to house the necessary equipment and personnel.

Over the years, the size of fire apparatus has increased, and our current facilities lack enough space to accommodate these larger vehicles. Since the current Fire Hall is not owned by the Fire District but leased from the Village, our ability to upgrade or expand the current Fire Hall is greatly limited. Upgrading to a new, appropriately sized facility will enable us to meet and exceed industry standards, enhancing our ability to protect lives and property.

### What has changed from the last proposal?

After the original proposal for a new Fire Hall did not pass in April, we listened to our community's concerns and scaled back the original plan to reduce its overall cost and tax impact. The size of the new building was reduced from 19,404 s.f. to 13,086 s.f., and the site plan was scaled back to eliminate the loop road and drive-through bay access. The interior building area was modified to optimize usable space by incorporating a multipurpose, cross-functional training and gathering space. This space can be easily divided into smaller areas when needed through the use of a movable partition wall. Offices and other areas were reduced in size.

We have been extremely cognizant of the cost to the taxpayer of the work we've included in this project scope. These modifications to our original project plan enabled us to reduce the original project cost by approximately \$2.6 million and reduce the impact on our taxpayers.

### How will this project better serve our community?

1. Recognizing the importance of timely responses, the new Fire Hall will be strategically located on Route 5 just outside the Village. This location will optimize our ability to reach any corner of our community swiftly in case of emergencies. This central location ensures that all areas of our district receive prompt and effective emergency services.
2. A new Fire Hall is not just about firefighting capabilities. It is an investment in overall emergency preparedness. By having a modern, well-equipped facility, we can better respond to a range of emergencies, ensuring the safety and security of our residents.

### How will this project better serve our firefighters?

Our current Fire Hall is lacking in both modern training capabilities and adequate health and safety facilities for our firefighters. Restroom and showers greatly help prevent cancer in our firefighters. The new Fire Hall will better equip our firefighters in training for modern emergency responses. Our current Fire Hall also lacks adequate parking for responding staff due to it being a shared public lot serving Main Street businesses and residents, as well as local government.

### When would the work take place?

If the project is approved by voters to move forward, the design will be further developed, reviewed and finalized through the fall. The project will then be bid in early 2025, with construction beginning in spring 2025. It is anticipated that the project will be complete by spring 2026.

### Is it possible to cast my vote by absentee ballot?

No, ballots must be cast in person at the designated date, time, and location. Section 3:10.19 of the New York Fire District Officers' Guide states: "Fire districts have the authority to utilize absentee ballots at fire district elections. This authority, however, is limited only to the election of fire district officers."

## PROJECT FINANCING PLAN

The originally proposed building plan for a new Fire Hall was revisited and revised by a capital project advisory committee consisting of Fire District members and volunteers, community representatives, and a team of professional consultants.

**By reducing the overall building footprint and simplifying its planned scope, this revised capital project proposal would cost \$2.6 million less than the prior proposal, resulting in a lower impact on our taxpayers.**

The total proposed project cost is \$8,907,000. The project would be financed over 30 years. You can look up your current taxable assessment value online at the Livingston County website at [www.livingstoncountyny.gov](http://www.livingstoncountyny.gov).



### Average Cost to Taxpayers

See [www.livingstoncountyny.gov](http://www.livingstoncountyny.gov) for current assessment roll.

Full Assessed Home Value	Annual	Monthly
\$100,000	\$129	\$10.73
\$150,000	\$193	\$16.09
\$200,000	\$257	\$21.45
\$250,000	\$322	\$26.82
\$300,000	\$386	\$32.18

**Total Project Authorization: \$8,907,000**



**PLEASE VOTE  
OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Questions? Contact Us:**

Website: [www.caledoniafiredistrict.org](http://www.caledoniafiredistrict.org)

Email: [info@caledoniafiredistrict.org](mailto:info@caledoniafiredistrict.org)



## Caledonia Fire District: How We Serve the Caledonia Community

### What is the Caledonia Fire District?

The Caledonia Joint Fire District and the Caledonia Fire Department work in collaboration with one another to support our community's public emergency services needs. The Fire District and Board of Fire Commissioners was established in 1994 by a joint resolution of the Town of Caledonia Board of Trustees and the Village of Caledonia Board of Trustees to oversee all emergency service operations, including the operations of the Fire Department. The Board of Fire Commissioners consists of five Commissioners, each serving a five-year term. The Board appoints a Secretary and Treasurer, and also organizes itself with a chairman and co-chairman. The Board of Fire Commissioners began its duties on January 1, 1994.

### Who does the Board of Fire Commissioners answer to?

They answer to the voters of Caledonia Fire District. The annual budget is presented each year at a public hearing in October, and elections for open Commissioners' seats are held in December.

### How does the Fire District fund its operations?

Fire District services are funded by tax dollars that are allocated toward our annual operational budget, which is approximately \$350,000. Budget funds are used to pay for the Fire District's planned operational costs, which primarily include:

- lease payments on our current Fire Hall
- equipment fuel
- insurance
- turnout gear
- safety equipment
- routine maintenance, repairs, and replacements of our fire equipment and apparatus

### How is the Fire Department different from the Fire District?

The Caledonia Fire Department is a private not-for-profit organization that supplies its members to the Fire District for firematic duties. The Fire Department does not receive any tax dollars and relies only on fundraising events to support its operations.

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