

New Fire Station Proposal

10-1-07

Why Does Westminster Need A New Station?

- Due to some major structural problems that has only worsened over the past couple of years.
- We have outgrown our station with equipment and personnel.

Why does Oconee County Need a Station?

- In June of 2007 Oconee County created the Emergency Services Agency.
 - This combined the Old Rural Fire, County Rescue, HAZ-MAT, and Emergency Management under one organization.
 - With this, the County saw a need for paid personnel to assist with the volunteers in the county.
 - Also they needed a Headquarters Station with a training facility for the entire county.

- With this in mind the county leaders looked at what locations they had available and what would be a centralized location for the station.
 - This would allow them to respond anywhere in the county.
 - This also would allow for a centralized location for training.
 - Proposed Location was Hwy 11 at Hwy 123 in the Industrial Park.

The Proposal

- The proposed location was 2.5 miles from the City of Westminster.
- Westminster has proposed that since both agencies need a station, and the location being so close to the City, that a joint building be constructed in the City limits.
 - Westminster has offered 14.95 acres on Highlands Avenue for the proposed location.
 - The County has 12.5 at their location.

What Does Westminster Have To Offer The County.

- The City has 14.95 acres versus 12.5, and that 12.5 is the last piece of property in the Industrial Park for future growth.
- The City can provide the utility infrastructure that would be costly to put in place at the Industrial Park.
- The Westminster Fire Department has equipment for the building that would save from duplicating in separate buildings.

What Type Equipment?

- Service Truck and Brush Truck to complement County apparatus.
- Air Compressor / Cascade system that is used to fill the breathing air bottles.
- Gear and Hose Washer to clean harmful toxins from turn-out gear “PPE”, and hose.
- Dryer for gear and hose.
- Physical fitness equipment.
- Training programs and library.

Equipment Continued

- Audio/Visual Equipment for training room.
- Commercial Ice Machine.
- New Refrigerator
- New TV
- Beds
- Computers and Office Supplies
- 2400 square foot building that can be moved to store specialized equipment.
- Many other small equipment items

What Is Needed From The County?

- The county would be responsible for building the facility.
- And adding a valuable training center on the property.

How Does This Save Taxpayers?

- City and County saves by keeping the Industrial Property open for future growth.
- County saves by not paying for costly infrastructure.
- Building one building instead of two.
- If the city builds a building on its own, the city taxpayers will have to absorb the full cost.
- Expense of duplicating equipment.

How Does This Benefit The Neighborhood?

- This facility would house the Westminster Fire Department, Westminster Rescue Squad, Oconee County Emergency Services, and an ambulance from Oconee Memorial Hospital.
- Property being used for fire facility has more positive impact than other type developments that could occupy this land.
- Training room could be used as a community room when needed.

Possible Concerns?

- Noise from sirens on emergency vehicles as they are responding to calls.
 - By policy, sirens would only be used once vehicle reaches the main highway.
 - There will however be lights.
- Noise from training facility.
 - The training facility will be located to the back of the property, which will put distance between the facility and residences.

Possible Concerns?

- Clearing the land and green areas.
 - The plan is to leave as much green area as possible to help with natural barriers.
- Increased traffic.
 - The fire department does have some traffic, but no more than a normal business.

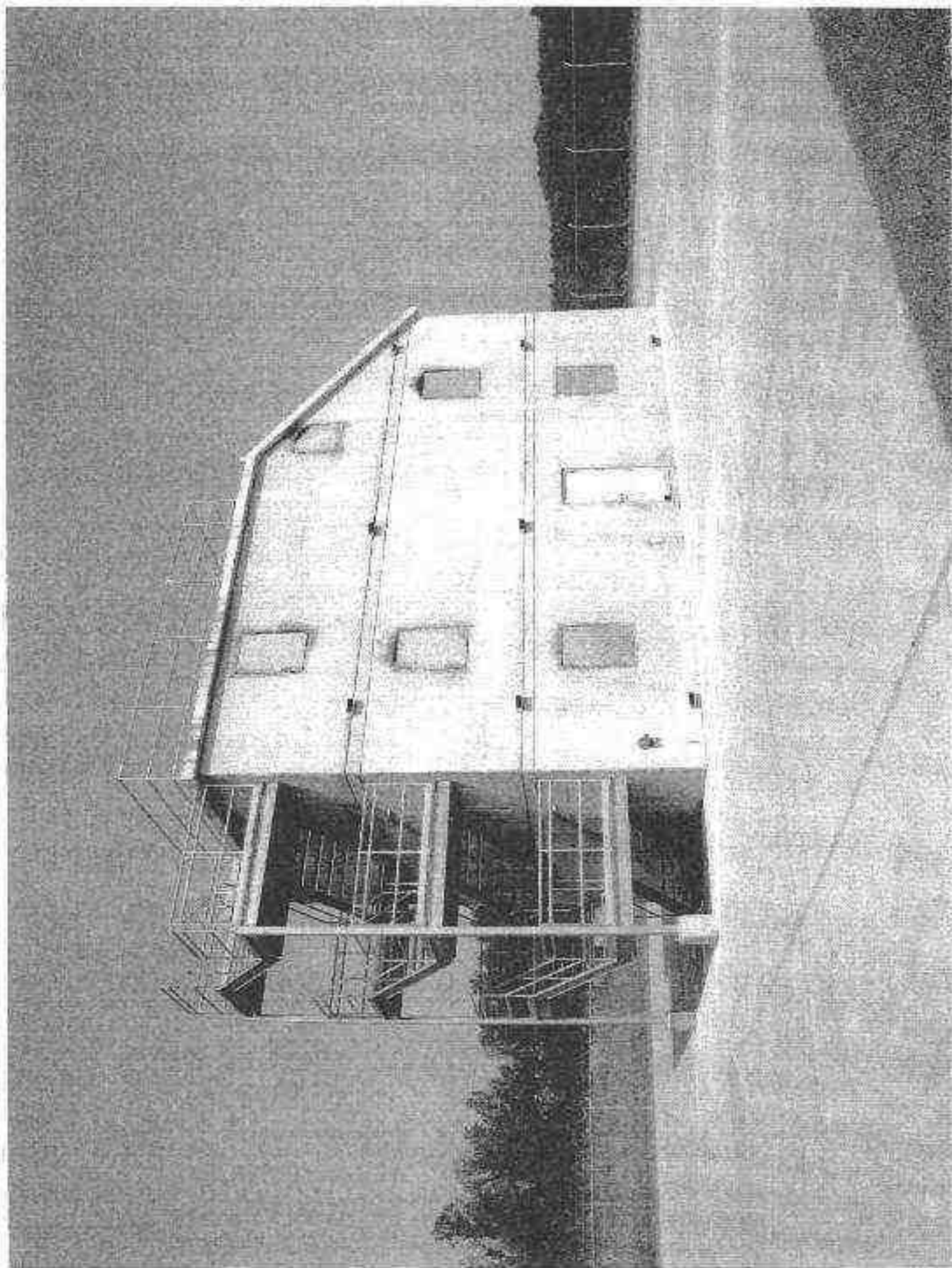
Property Location and Layout

- Property is located on Highlands Avenue between Martin and Johnson Street.
- Main facility will be toward the front half.
- Training facility will be at the rear.



What Type Training Facility?

- The training area will have a building which allows firefighters to train on live fire situations.
 - This is a structure, in which we burn hay for smoke and heat.
 - The smoke from this facility is controlled and is usually light.
- In the future the County may add to the training facility.



Any Questions?