

PROJECT 6 - Renovate Canastota Fire House for Improved Community Use and Greater Accessibility

Public Improvement



NYF REQUEST

\$909,000
(100% of project cost)

PROJECT COST

\$909,000

ADDRESS

127 E Center Street, Canastota, NY

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project will modernize the Canastota Fire House's public meeting space to better serve all community members with accessibility improvements in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other enhancements. The project scope includes elevator installation, restroom renovation, window replacement, exterior rehabilitation, and enhanced energy efficiency.

In addition to providing emergency services, the Canastota Fire House serves as an essential community space, hosting events throughout the year such as the Parade of Lights in December.

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

The Fire House was first constructed in 1918 and significantly expanded in 1975. It is a two-story building with a ground floor area of 6,900 square feet. The 106-year-old structure is in need of significant renovation including upgrades to its central meeting hall, kitchen, and restrooms. Additionally, many exterior windows are in need of replacement and the stucco on the east and south sides of the building requires maintenance. The site's parking lot and driveway also need a complete milling and repaving.

Perhaps most importantly, the Fire House is out of ADA compliance. The meeting hall, kitchen, and primary restrooms are located on the second floor and there is no elevator or ADA ramp access. As a result, the Red Cross has deemed the space unusable as an emergency shelter, requiring displaced residents to be evacuated to another facility during severe weather events such as the tornado in July 2024.

The project will not only bring the structure up to code, but will increase its ability to serve as a community hub for all residents. Installation of an elevator will allow all residents to attend meetings and events in the space. The interior renovations will enhance the station's environment for firefighters and community members who use the space. The exterior renovations will improve the aesthetics of the site and the energy efficiency of the building, reducing operational and maintenance costs and contributing to an improved appearance of the NYF Area.

PROJECT SPONSOR AND OWNERSHIP

The project is sponsored by the Village of Canastota. The Village owns the existing Fire Station building and parcel.

CAPACITY

The Village of Canastota is the sponsor for four other potential NYF projects and the Small Project Fund. The Village has undertaken several significant public improvement and renovation projects over the last several years including renovations to the municipal building, wastewater treatment plant, headworks pump station, and public realm improvements to the downtown business corridor. Additionally, the Village has administered and continues to administer grant funding for numerous projects such as a new fire truck, air packs for firefighters, a sewer separation project and a downtown revitalization project.

The Canastota Fire Department currently occupies the fire house and will likely assist the Village in overseeing the renovation process.

REVITALIZATION STRATEGIES

This project helps to achieve the following NYF goals and strategies:

Develop a public gathering space in downtown.

Renovations to the Fire House's meeting hall will allow the space to better accommodate community meetings and events. The elevator installation will make the space accessible to all residents.

This project helps to achieve the following REDC strategies:

Invest in smart, healthy, and resilient community centers.

The facade renovations will improve the Fire House's aesthetics and contribute to an overall improvement of the NYF Area.

DECARBONIZATION & ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

The project meets the threshold for decarbonization as the project has an area of 6,900 square feet. The expected decarbonization compliance will be Path 1 - NY Stretch.

The project scope includes replacement of 28 windows to improve energy efficiency. The project scope does not include any environmental resiliency measures.

PUBLIC SUPPORT

During and after the second public workshop, 77% of project survey respondents expressed high support for this project and another 6% expressed some support. Respondents shared that the project has already received strong community support and would allow the building to better serve all residents, especially seniors and people with mobility impairments who often struggle to access the second floor facilities. Multiple respondents also expressed the importance of having an accessible facility in Canastota that can be used as a place of refuge in case of disaster.

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

BUDGET NARRATIVE

The preliminary project costs were estimated by M.E.I.D. Construction, a contractor hired by the Village. These estimates were reviewed and refined by the consultant team's cost estimator. The project will be completely funded with a NY Forward grant if awarded.

The Village will utilize readily available municipal funds and borrowing capacity to complete the project prior to NYF fund reimbursement.

PROJECT BUDGET

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS OF FUNDS
ADA-Compliant Building Components (elevator and bathroom upgrades)	\$433,000	NYF	Requested
Interior Improvements (floor and ceiling replacement)	\$82,000		
Exterior Improvements (install new windows and stucco repair)	\$94,000		
Driveway Improvements	\$300,000		
Total NYF Funding Request			\$909,000
Total Funding from Other Sources			\$0
Total Project Cost			\$909,000
% Requested of Total Project Cost			100%

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

PROJECT NEED & IMPACT

The Canastota Fire House is dated and out of compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The project’s renovations will modernize the facility with upgrades to the central meeting hall. These improvements will increase its capacity to serve as a public gathering space that can better accommodate community meetings and events. Limited meeting space in the Village makes optimizing this asset for community use paramount for supporting the Village’s civic and social life.

Seniors and residents with mobility impairments struggle to access the Fire House’s meeting hall due to its location on the second floor and the lack of ADA accommodations. Oftentimes, these community members are unable to attend or have to be carried up the stairs by others to participate in meetings and events. The installation of an elevator will remove these barriers, allowing the building to achieve ADA compliance. These improvements will also allow the Fire House to serve as a refuge during emergencies and natural disasters.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The project will need to go through the Village’s code enforcement review and approval process to obtain a building permit from the Village’s Code Enforcement Office. It will also be required to follow the Village’s architectural control procedure which includes review by the Architecture Review Board to ensure proposed project plans preserve and enhance the appearance of historic Canastota.

TIMELINE FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Anticipated Start Date: Winter 2026	
PROJECT STAGE	TIMEFRAME
Design development	3-4 months
Construction	7-8 months
Total Timeframe	10-12 months
Anticipated Completion Date: Winter 2027	

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

EXISTING CONDITIONS



View of Fire House from E Center Street.



Existing second floor meeting hall space.

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Parade of Lights hosted in the Fire House meeting hall. *Source: Project Sponsor.*



Parade of Lights holiday market using meeting hall space. *Source: Project Sponsor.*

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

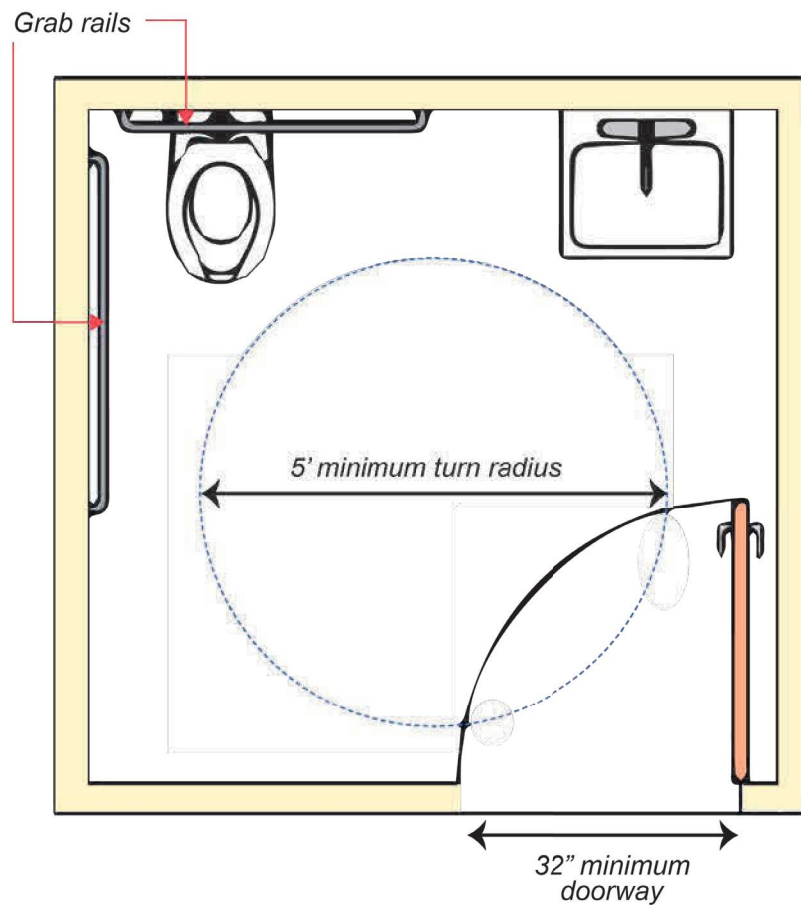
PROPOSED CONDITIONS



Conceptual rendering of Fire House's exterior improvements.

PROJECT 6 - CANASTOTA FIRE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

PROPOSED CONDITIONS



Conceptual floor plan of proposed ADA accessible restroom. Source: U.S. Access Board ADA Accessibility Standards Guide.