

Fire Station 1 Background

415 Jackson Avenue, Elk River, Minnesota

Information from April 2026



Fire Station 1 opened in 1971 and was originally a three-bay station. In 1989, three additional bays were added to accommodate a new aerial truck that required a larger space. The final addition was added in 2006 and currently houses the Elk River Ambulance. **However, this now seven-bay station has reached the end of its life expectancy.**

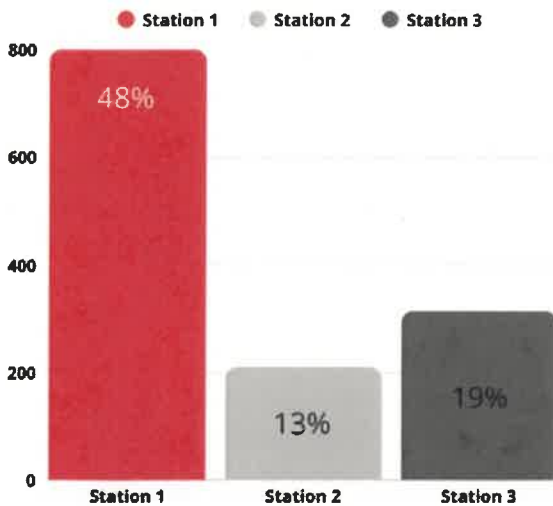
Multiple feasibility and facilities studies have been conducted since 2017, all stating that Fire Station 1 is in poor condition, major building systems are deteriorated, and various other issues make Fire Station 1 **not fit** for a remodel or current building expansion.

Proposed New Facility

The issues listed on the back of this page make Fire Station 1 a candidate for a brand new building and location. Elk River Fire Department's goals for this project are to create an upgraded station that is welcoming, a service to the community, future-focused, fiscally responsible, and can be a source of history, wellness, and education.



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New Facility Needs (in no particular order)

- Maintains fire and EMS connection
- Cost-effectiveness, energy-efficiency, and a plan for the future with durable materials
- Recognizes the history of the Elk River Fire Department
- Has drive-through apparatus bays that accommodate the size of modern apparatuses
- Sufficient storage space for equipment
- Large classroom for training and public education
- Office, fitness, and workspace for firefighters and staff
- Dorms and storage for both fire and EMS
- Separate and appropriately-sized decontamination areas
- Appropriate space for the Elk River Police Department to utilize

Summary of Space Needs

Apparatus Bay PPE Storage Room Admin Front Office
Hose Storage Admin/Cleaning Closet Decontamination Room
EMS Supply Room On-Site Training Health & Wellness

EXTERIOR



- Brick veneer and painted concrete in poor condition with damaged mortar joints.
- Window frames in poor condition.
- Exterior doors have deteriorating hardware.
- Entire building lacks energy efficiency.
- Roof has several leaks and needs replacing.
- Exterior concrete and asphalt need replacing.

GARAGE & BAY



- Garage doors need replacing.
- Bays are too narrow, with the apparatus too close to the walls.
- Bays are disjointed due to previous additions.
- Ceiling clearance is too short for modern apparatus.
- Bays are not drive-through, which creates a safety issue when backing up from a busy street.

MECHANICAL



- Electrical panels are obsolete, and wiring is beyond its expected life.
- Electrical service and distribution systems are a combination of original and renewed components, making electrical a high priority for replacement.
- Plumbing needs to be updated and replaced due to cast-iron piping beyond its expected life.
- Significant remodeling would need to be done just to access underground pipes for repair or replacement.

OPERATIONAL



- Garage flooring lacks appropriate drainage.
- SCBA (oxygen tank) filling, equipment decontamination, and workshop are currently housed in one place.
- Training areas, dayrooms, and workrooms are significantly undersized and do not accommodate the department's growth.
- Existing station has used over 90% of the property, allowing no further expansion space.

SAFETY



- Turnout gear is currently left exposed within the apparatus bays.
- Outdated electrical systems are becoming hazardous.
- Building lacks appropriate ventilation systems.
- SCBA (oxygen tank) filling, equipment decontamination, and workshop are currently housed in one place.
- Lack of security within station.

EQUIPMENT STORAGE



- No appropriate place for turnout gear and PPE to be stored safely and effectively for operations.
- General lack of storage space for a variety of equipment.
- Narrow hallways throughout station.