

## MUNICIPALITIES STILL RECOVERING FROM 2004 STORMS

By Suzanne S. Hunnicutt, AIA



When Hurricane Charley blew through central Florida in 2004, the Zolfo Springs Police and Fire Station building was damaged beyond repair. The two departments have operated out of temporary facilities while planning, designing, and constructing their new replacement facilities. They look forward to taking occupancy of the new building, which is scheduled for completion at the end of May.

Chastain-Skillman, Inc. (CSI) has provided architectural and engineering services for this project, working with both the Town of Zolfo Springs and the Hardee County Fire Rescue Department. CSI's role has been to design a facility to meet the current and future needs of the departments while working within the constraints of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant that is a funding source for the project. The building is 5,200 square feet and is being constructed at a cost of approximately \$120 per square foot including site work.

The police department area includes office space, records storage, evidence storage, and an armory for weapons storage. The fire department spaces include a bunk room, day room, three apparatus bays, and storage for turnout gear and medical supplies. The building design enables the departments to share a kitchen/dining area, training room, and locker areas, while maintaining their own security.

The City of Davenport also lost their Police Station to the 2004 hurricanes, and has selected CSI to design the reconstruction of their facilities. Working within the remaining foundation and walls, the project will include office space, a briefing/training room, evidence and weapons storage, and holding cells. In the design phase, CSI also presented alternatives for the addition of a sallyport to transfer prisoners, and a community room.

The existing building shell is a simple rectangle with brick veneer, and is located near the center of town. The City asked CSI to develop a design that would not only meet the department's functional needs, but also weave the building into the historic fabric of the downtown area.

CSI is glad to be able to help these and other municipalities throughout central Florida meet the challenges of providing essential public services in a manner that is both effective and economical.

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