

OCEAN CITY FIRE STATION 4

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

Gillis Gilkerson completed construction of Ocean City Fire Station 4 in 2014. Station 4 is a 12,000-square-foot, two-story facility with three engine bays. It includes live-in space to accommodate several firefighters, comes with an exercise room, and more space for storage and apparatus. Architecturally, it reflects the area's coastal style and includes a cupola evocative of a lighthouse.

"Challenges with weather and with subcontractors led to some initial delays in construction, said City Engineer Terry McGean. "Our contractors, Gillis Gilkerson, made up for it with weekend and overtime work so they wouldn't fall too far behind. It took a long time for what we call "getting out of the ground", but once the structure goes, it feels like its happens like that," McGean said, snapping his fingers.

The peaked engine bay roof can accommodate tower trucks, and a wide catwalk across the three bays will be used for storage. The engine bay will be heated with a system of recirculating hot water in pipes embedded beneath the concrete floor. Its six garage doors, comprised of glass panels, allow for plenty of light to come into the engine bay and for passers-by to see the firetrucks inside.

Additional safety considerations, which the old building lacked, include a decontamination space where firefighters coming back from fires can clean up, and not track debris into the living quarters. The engine bay also comes with a Plymovent air cleaner which ventilates fire truck exhaust.

Ocean City's original budget for Station 4 was \$3.5 million, but it came in under, closer to \$3.3 million. McGean credited that savings to very competitive construction bids. Cost savings allowed them to purchase and install a building-wide generator, which was not part of the original plan.

Photos courtesy of OCFD.



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