



COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

January 31, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment

Dear Honorable Members:

This resolution, from the Department of Public Works, is seeking authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Agreement with the engineering firm Liro Engineers Inc., for professional engineering services related to the Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment project. The Department of Public Works received professional Architectural/Engineering design services proposals for the project on December 5th 2024.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner William E. Geary at the Department of Public Works. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/ks
Enclosure

cc: William Geary, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Public Works
Re: Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment
Date: January 31, 2025

SUMMARY

The Department of Public Works (DPW), in conjunction with Erie County Emergency Services, is seeking authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract with the firm of Liro Engineers, Inc. for the Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment project, located at 3359 Broadway St. Cheektowaga, NY 14227.

This project involves a structural evaluation/ analysis of the fire training tower in its entirety including all structural elements (concrete and steel), railings, basement sump electrical repairs and the exterior fire escape ladder to determine the eligibility and cost of recommissioning the structure for service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds for the project are currently available from the approved 2024 Capital Budget, Funds Center 122, Fund 410, as follows:

A.24056 – Fire Safety - Training Tower Reconstruction	\$ 150,000.00
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REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

This project is necessary to perform a structural assessment of the existing 7-story training tower that has been out of service and decommissioned since 2017. To safely start resuming use of the building for training purposes by local fire departments, a full structural assessment of the existing structure needs to be performed with anticipated construction and/or repair costs are necessary to determine the viability of reinstating the Fire Training Tower located at 3359 Broadway St. Cheektowaga, NY 14227 with intentions to begin using the tower again for training.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1965 the training tower was constructed to assist in the training of local firefighters. The tower had been an asset to area volunteer fire companies, local municipality fire companies and the City of Buffalo firefighters, who have previously used the tower frequently until its closure in 2017. It stands as the largest and tallest fire training tower in the area and would be a continuing benefit to area firefighters if repairs were made and it was available for use again.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If this project is not completed, the building will continue to sit unused and will fall further into neglect and disrepair eventually outweighing the cost to rehabilitate the building requiring a substantially larger cost to remove and replace.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The County Executive will enter into an Agreement with the engineering firm of Liro Engineers, Inc. so that design work can proceed.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to an authorized capital project for which there are sufficient appropriations for the action proposed.

 Timothy C. Callan 1/21/25

**Timothy C. Callan
Deputy Comptroller
Comptroller's Office**

A.24056 – Fire Safety - Training Tower Reconstruction

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

RE: Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment

WHEREAS, the existing 7-story Fire Training Tower located at the Fire Training Academy at 3359 Broadway St. Cheektowaga, NY 14227 has been used for fire training purposes by several local volunteer and municipality fire companies to execute project training for its firefighters until the building had been decommissioned in 2017 due to unsafe conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Training Tower is the only building of its kind in Western and Central New York for firefighter multi-story training purposes considering its height; and

WHEREAS, Erie County Emergency Services has expressed the need to have this building rehabilitated for training purposes and has worked in collaboration with the Department of Public Works (DPW) to begin the process of assessing the structure; and

WHEREAS, the Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment project (herein called the "Project") seeks structural assessment of the existing fire tower with recommendations to determine the extent of the repairs necessary along with associated construction cost estimates needed to bring the tower back into operation; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the Project will evaluate the current safety of the structure and identify the necessary repairs in order to determine if the County should move forward with repairs or look into removal and replacement of the tower; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works (DPW) received proposals for the Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment Project on December 5th 2024; and

WHEREAS, Liro Engineers, Inc. had shown the necessary expertise and manpower to provide professional design services for the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into an Agreement with Liro Engineers, Inc. for providing professional design services for the Erie County – Cheektowaga Fire Training Tower for an amount not to exceed \$150,000, including design contingency in the amount of \$19,214; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller's Office be authorized to make payment from the following capital project in Funds Center 122, Fund 410:

<u>A.24056 – Fire Safety - Training Tower Reconstruction</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>
Total Amount Not to Exceed	\$ 150,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be sent to Department of Public Works, and one copy each to the County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Services and Division of Budget and Management.

TO: TIMOTHY CALLAN, COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING RULE 55

CONTRACT APPROVAL CHECKLIST
CONFIRMATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS

REQUESTING DEPARTMENT

COMPLETE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5

1. CONTRACTOR'S NAME LiRo Engineers Inc.
2. AMOUNT OF CONTRACT Not to exceed \$150,000
3. PROJECT NUMBER A.24056
4. PROJECT TITLE Cheektowaga Fire Tower Structural Assessment
5. DEPARTMENT CONTACT Funding questions: Kristofer Straus x7294
Letter pickup: Christy Weber at x8301

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

COMPLETE ITEMS 6 AND 7

6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS \$ 249,632.57
 7. PERFORMED BY *Thayer*
- Date Sent to Comptroller's Office: 1/17/25

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ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
Project Name
PROPOSAL REVIEW COMMITTEE RATINGS - SUMMARY

Proposer	Evaluation Criteria																	Weighted Average Qualifications Score (0 - 10)	Qualifications Ranking
	Understanding of Work to be Done			Staff Experience / Qualifications			Firm Experience with Similar Projects, and Quality of Any Past Experience with County			Organization and Scheduling			Percentage of M/WBE Participation						
	Weight = 30%			Weight = 30%			Weight = 20%			Weight = 15%			Weight = 5%						
	Committee Member Raw Score (0 - 10)	Avg. Score		Committee Member Raw Score (0 - 10)	Avg. Score		Committee Member Raw Score (0 - 10)	Avg. Score		Committee Member Raw Score (0 - 10)	Avg. Score		Committee Member Raw Score (0 - 10)	Avg. Score					
#1	#2	#3	#1	#2	#3	#1	#2	#3	#1	#2	#3	#1	#2	#3					
Firm Name	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	5		
El Team	2	10	4	5	10	3	5	00	8	10	5	7.67	5	10	0	5.00	6.02	4	
B&L	5	10	7	6	10	7	7.67	7	5	10	8	7.67	5	10	7	7.33	7.55	3	
LIRB	7	10	9	7	10	9	8.67	7	7	10	7	8.00	10	10	9	9.67	8.75	1	
D'Donato	8	8	8	8	10	9	9.00	8	8	10	8	9.33	5	10	7	7.33	8.48	2	

It is my opinion in recommending firm Name, Address, City, NY ZIP The Erie County Department of Public Works has complied with all applicable provisions of Section 19.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code. Scoring sheets and other materials related to this matter are available for review at the Department of Public Works' office during regular business hours.

[Signature]
 William E. Greary
 Commissioner of Public Works

[Signature]
 Lisa Chamberlain
 Deputy County Executive