

Construction management firm aided city with police headquarters, 911 center

DURING THE CIVIL War, the City of Fredericksburg witnessed the ravages, weaponry and brutality of industrialized warfare. Many of the buildings that survived the conflict in the historic city still stand as silent reminders of the turbulent time in which the future of the nation was decided.

Today, Fredericksburg is a blend of old and new. It has successfully found the unique balance of economic development and historic preservation through tourism, destination shopping and the University of Mary Washington. Located on the Rappahannock River, midway between Washington and Richmond, the city is a diverse and vibrant community.

From 2005 through 2008, Fredericksburg needed program management expertise to oversee the design and construction of its new Police Headquarters and 911 Emergency Call Center. Downey & Scott, LLC was selected as its construction program management firm. The city had an existing 911 center that still functioned, but was at risk of failing. A new facility was needed.

The task was to deliver a new state-of-the-art emergency communications center and police headquarters, which would serve the citizens of Fredericksburg for the next 50 years. Downey & Scott, LLC, working on behalf of the city, evaluated PPEA design/build proposals and assisted in project design criteria and budget. The challenge was much more than building bricks and mortar. There would come a moment in time when the old 911 system would be shut down and be switched over to the new facility more than three miles away.

As construction program manager, Downey & Scott, LLC focused the design-build team very early in the process on the critical event of the



The Fredericksburg Police Department and 911 Emergency Call Center project finished on time, under budget and without any loss of service to the public.

911 switch over. Downey & Scott took a proactive project management approach with the entire design build team. Each team member was clear in their roles and understood that integration of technology into the building played a vital role in the project's success. The project team, which included Moseley Architects P.C. and English Construction Co. Inc., established a strict and rigorous program of technology review and integration planning for the project's "mission critical technology." Emergency 911 call response was the main focus and any lapse in service, no matter how brief, was an unacceptable risk to the public safety. Failure of the 911 system was not an option.

Complex technical elements of the project included the integration of Verizon fiber optic lines, internal security systems, radio communications, secure computer network systems, and the emergency dispatch center's equipment and furniture. Through careful planning, multiple checklists, responsibility matrixes and testing/retesting, the 911 system for Fredericksburg was switched over without any loss of service. Downey & Scott,

LLC demonstrated its expertise and team approach using meticulous planning and paying close attention to detail. The project finished on time, under budget and without any loss of service to the public. 

Downey & Scott, LLC, a VML sustaining member, is a construction management services firm with 26 years experience in the public-governmental sector. Visit www.downeyscott.com.

Contacts:

Bev Cameron

City Manager
City of Fredericksburg
715 Princess Anne St.
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
540-372-1015

Taylor Leigh

Vice President
Downey & Scott, LLC
6799 Kennedy Road, Unit F
Warrenton, VA 20187
taylor@downeyscott.com
540-347-5001