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CASE STUDY

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Camden Township





When Camden Township set out to replace its aging, undersized fire station, the goal was clear: deliver a modern, multi-functional facility that could serve both an active volunteer fire department and township administrative operations within limited public funding. The result is a 10,000 sf facility, delivered by Authorized Builder Janotta & Herner, utilizing a pre-engineered metal building system to achieve functionality, efficiency, and long-term value.

Camden Township's fire department had previously operated out of a retrofitted church with limited space for vehicles and equipment. The department needed a new facility that could house modern apparatus, provide safe and functional training space, include administrative offices, and serve as an emergency storm shelter — all within the monetary constraints of a small municipality with limited public resources.

“As a small, volunteer-based department, budget was a key constraint,” explained Kyle Stang, Vice President at Janotta & Herner. “The Nucor team helped evaluate multiple design options to achieve the required functionality and aesthetics while maintaining cost competitiveness.”

Nucor provided the complete structural building system, including the open apparatus bay, mezzanine, and office space. The pre-engineered metal building system is well-suited to the project's demands: wide-span, column-free apparatus bays accommodate large fire vehicles with room to operate safely; the partial mezzanine adds usable upper-level space without expanding the building footprint; and the flexibility of the PEMB

allowed the multiple-building configuration to be designed, detailed, and integrated as a single coordinated package.

Structurally, the project presented its own complexities. The facility required the integration of a combination of gable symmetrical frames for the apparatus bay, office wing, and bump-out, along with three single-slope structures, creating a compound roofline that demanded precise engineering coordination across the entire system.

Janotta & Herner leveraged their long-standing partnership with Nucor Building Systems to evaluate multiple structural systems and design configurations before committing to a final approach. That collaborative pre-construction process proved critical. It allowed the team to model and compare options across cost, constructability, and performance, identifying the configuration that delivered the required functionality.

“Janotta & Herner and Nucor Building Systems have been long-standing partners,” said Stang. “Delivered through a competitive design-build process, this public project required the team to meet the owner's requirements while



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remaining cost competitive. Our relationship with Nucor allowed us to evaluate multiple construction types and systems to identify the best solution that balanced functionality, aesthetics, and budget to meet the owner’s needs.”

The exterior wall and roof cladding were supplied separately as insulated metal panel systems and completed the building envelope designed for long-term durability and low maintenance. The facility features multiple overhead doors sized for large fire trucks, and its red and gray exterior draws on the traditional color scheme associated with fire stations. Concrete block along the base of the structure introduces texture and definition, enhancing the building’s overall appearance.

Additionally, the Camden Township Fire Station, in Lorain County, Ohio, is now centrally positioned within the department’s jurisdiction at the intersection of two major highways, improving emergency response coverage across the township. For the volunteer firefighters who serve the community, the new facility significantly improves their ability to respond, train, and operate effectively. Modern apparatus storage, compliant safety

infrastructure, and dedicated training space give the department the tools to recruit, develop, and retain personnel more effectively. The on-site storm shelter extends the facility’s value beyond emergency response, making it a year-round community asset.

The Camden Township Fire Department project highlights how a well-executed pre-engineered metal building solution can meet demanding civic and operational requirements while maintaining cost-effectiveness. Through close coordination between Janotta & Herner and Nucor Building Systems, the team delivered a lasting, multi-use facility tailored to the needs of a growing volunteer department.

Janotta & Herner is a Northern Ohio–based design-build general contractor serving industrial, warehousing, commercial, and food-grade markets. With architects, engineers, and designers under one roof—along with more than 100 skilled tradespeople who self-perform key trades, including PEMB erection—the company delivers efficient, seamless construction solutions from concept through completion. JanottaHerner.com



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