



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Karl
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Bohnak
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
City of Ishpeming
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
100 South Lake Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
City of Ishpeming's Fire Tower
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Karl Bohnak - 109th District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
This appropriation will fund rehabilitation work on the fire station tower, including comprehensive brick repointing, installation of new coping to protect exposed masonry, and enhanced site drainage to prevent water infiltration. These targeted repairs extend the tower's service life, prevent moisture-driven deterioration, and optimize long-term maintenance costs compared to full replacement. By preserving original materials and minimizing new construction. Rehabilitating the tower protects the Fire/Police facility it sits on.

The attached document will provide some of the history of the tower along with photographs for full disclosure.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

1750000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["Local"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

August 1st, 2025 - November 1st, 2025

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes

PURPOSE

U.P. Engineers and Architects, Inc. (UPEA) was retained by the city of Ishpeming to perform a structural evaluation of the city's fire station tower. UPEA performed the inspection on August 19, 2024. The exterior of the tower was inspected from a boom truck operated by a member of the fire department. Also, from the roof of the buildings adjacent to the tower. The interior of the tower was visually inspected from the ground floor level. The tower was built in 1912 as part of the original fire station. In 2001, the upper 22-foot section of the tower was demolished and rebuilt to match the original. The tower holds significant historical value to the city. In addition, the lower half of it is used as a place to hang fire hoses to dry.

In recent years, the brick masonry of the rebuilt portion of the tower has begun splitting, cracking, and spalling. Large pieces of brick, some of them up to 7 ½ inches long by 1 inch thick, have fallen from the tower. This falling debris has the potential to damage the building and parked municipal vehicles below, as well as endanger any people near the tower.

At the recommendation of GEI Consultants, the city wrapped the upper portion of the tower with safety netting to prevent pieces of brick from falling in 2017 as a temporary safety measure. When UPEA inspected the tower, the netting was holding many pieces of brick of various sizes. The roof of the building below also was littered with brick pieces which may have escaped the safety netting. The presence of the brick debris in the netting show that the tower is continuing to deteriorate. Action should be taken as soon as possible to alleviate the risk presented by the tower while it is still in stable condition.

TOWER CONDITION

The lower part of the tower, which is original to the building, has only minor cracking and mortar loss. There are “stair-step” cracks over most of the window openings. This is caused by the expansion of the steel lintels as they rust, but it does not pose a risk to the tower’s overall stability. These issues should be addressed as general maintenance of the building.

The upper rebuilt portion of the tower shows significant deterioration in the forms of brick spalling, cracking, and efflorescence. This may have been caused by a variety of issues, the most likely being that the brick is made of a poor-quality material or was constructed poorly. This brick deterioration will continue and eventually the upper portion of the tower will be at risk of collapse. The condition of this part of the tower is such that rehabilitation is not an option.

The inside of the tower was dry, but there was some indication of water infiltration on the ceiling. There was cracking of mortar joints and efflorescence in the brickwork of the tower.

In summary, during the inspection on August 19, 2024, UPEA found that the lower part of the tower, built in 1912, was in generally sound condition. Some maintenance issues should be addressed, such as tuck-pointing the joints, sealing against water infiltration, and painting of the steel lintels. The upper part of the tower, which was rebuilt in 2001, was in poor condition. The deterioration has continued since it was last inspected by GEI Consultants in April of 2022. While it is not in immediate danger of collapse, action should be taken as soon as possible while the structure still poses only a relatively small risk to the surrounding people and property.

APPENDIX I

Photographs from Structure Investigation



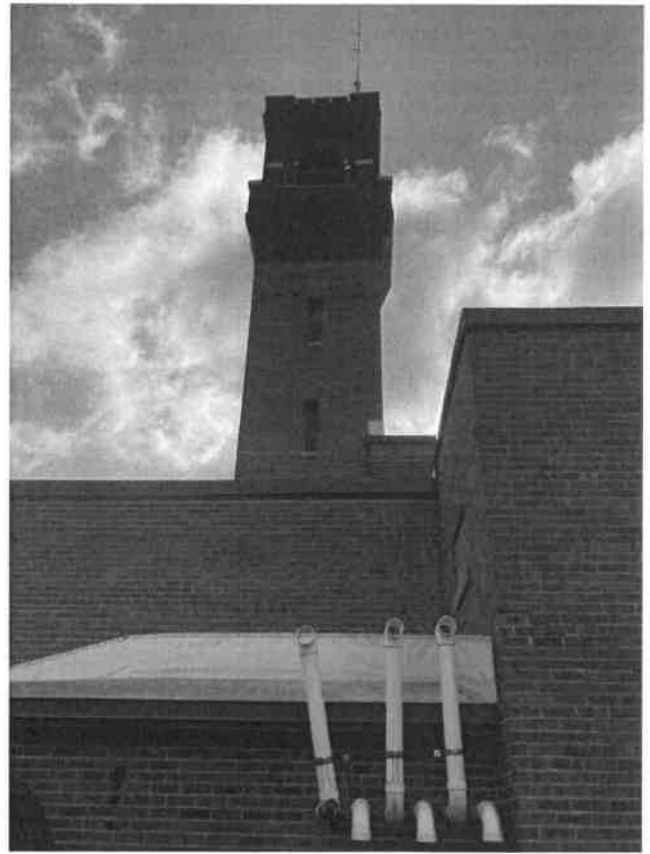
1. NE Corner, Fire Tower, Ishpeming Fire Department, 100 E Division St, Ishpeming, MI 49849



2. NW corner, Fire Tower.



3. North elevation, Fire Tower.



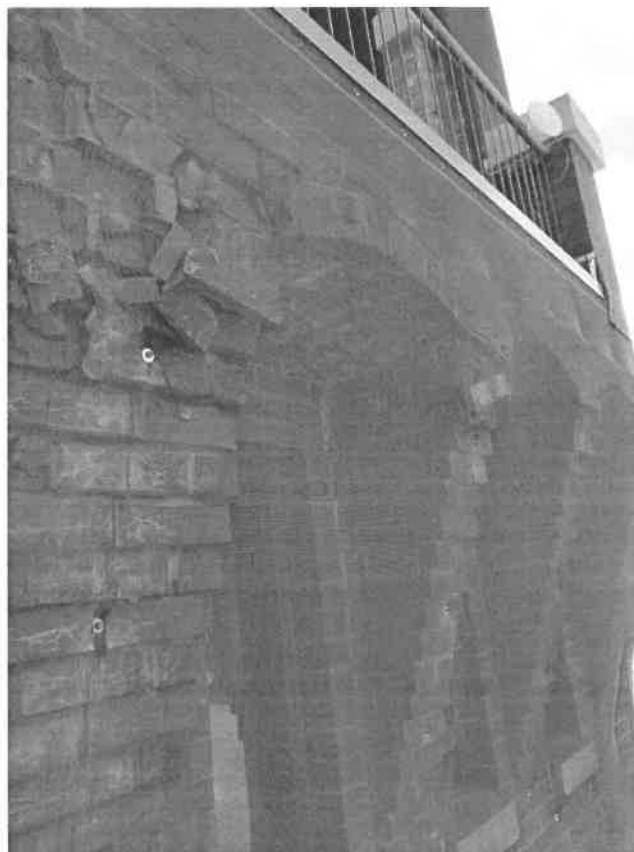
4. West elevation, Fire Tower.



5. Roof penetration (North), Fire Tower.



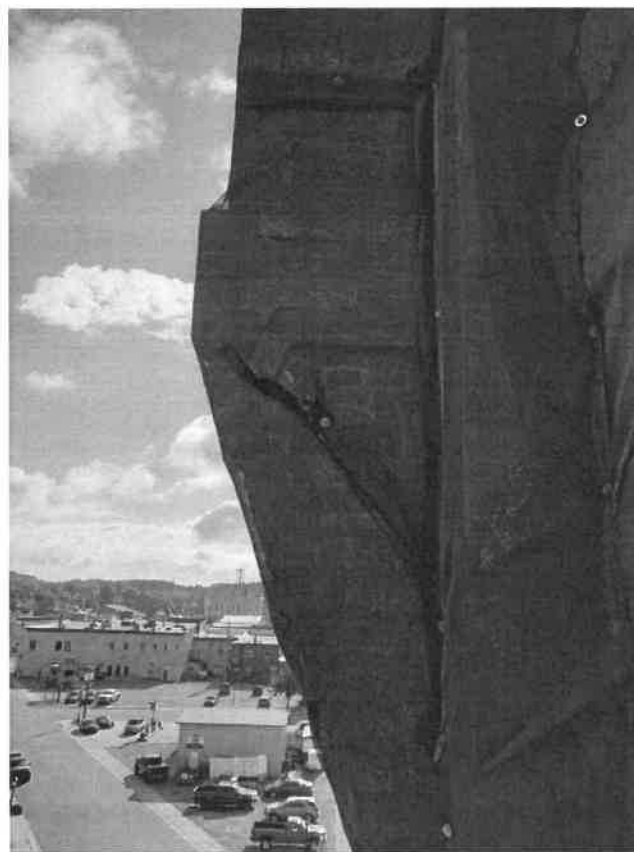
6. 2001 Addition, Fire Tower.



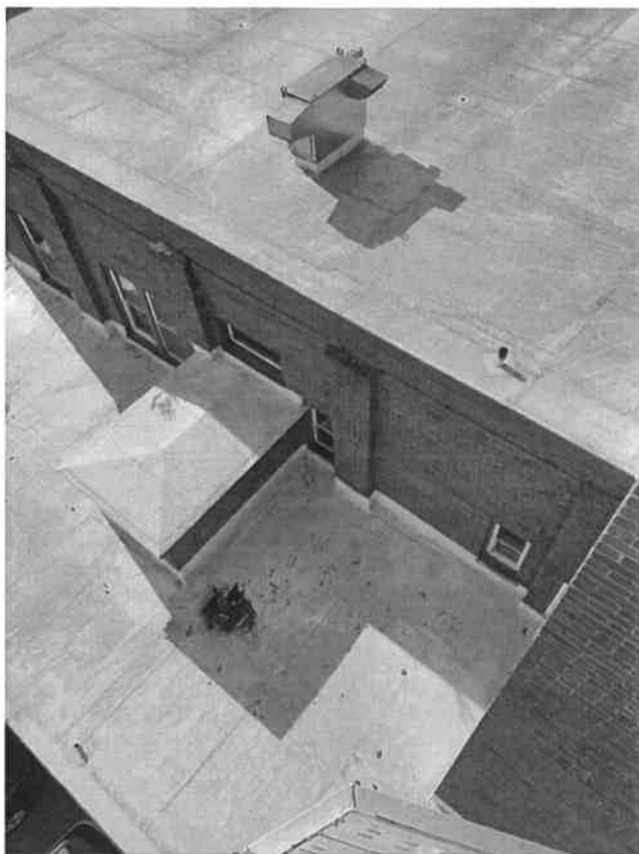
7. View of cracked and spalled brick.



8. View of cracked and spalled brick.



9. View of cracked and spalled brick.



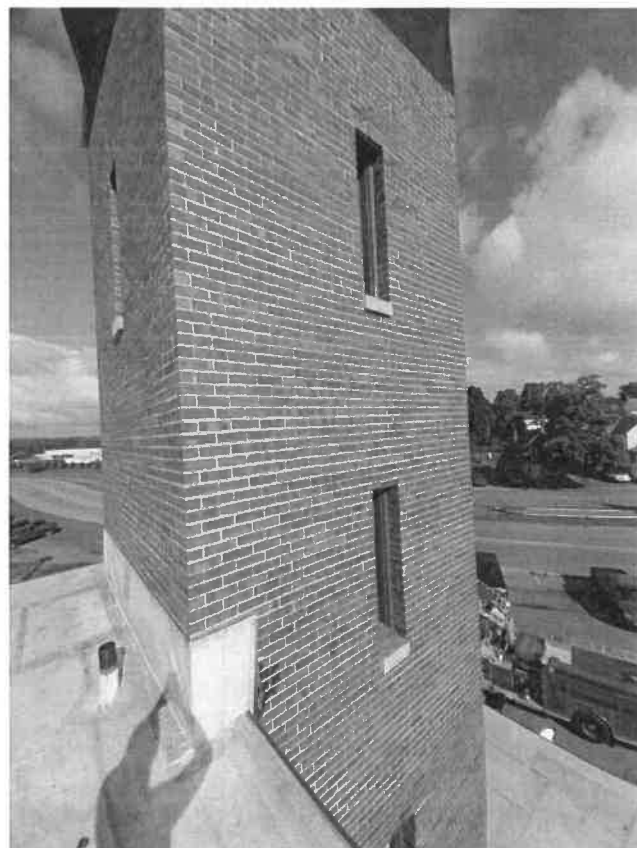
10. View of debris on roof below.



11. Window showing swelled header.



12. South roof penetration.



13. SE Corner, Fire Tower.



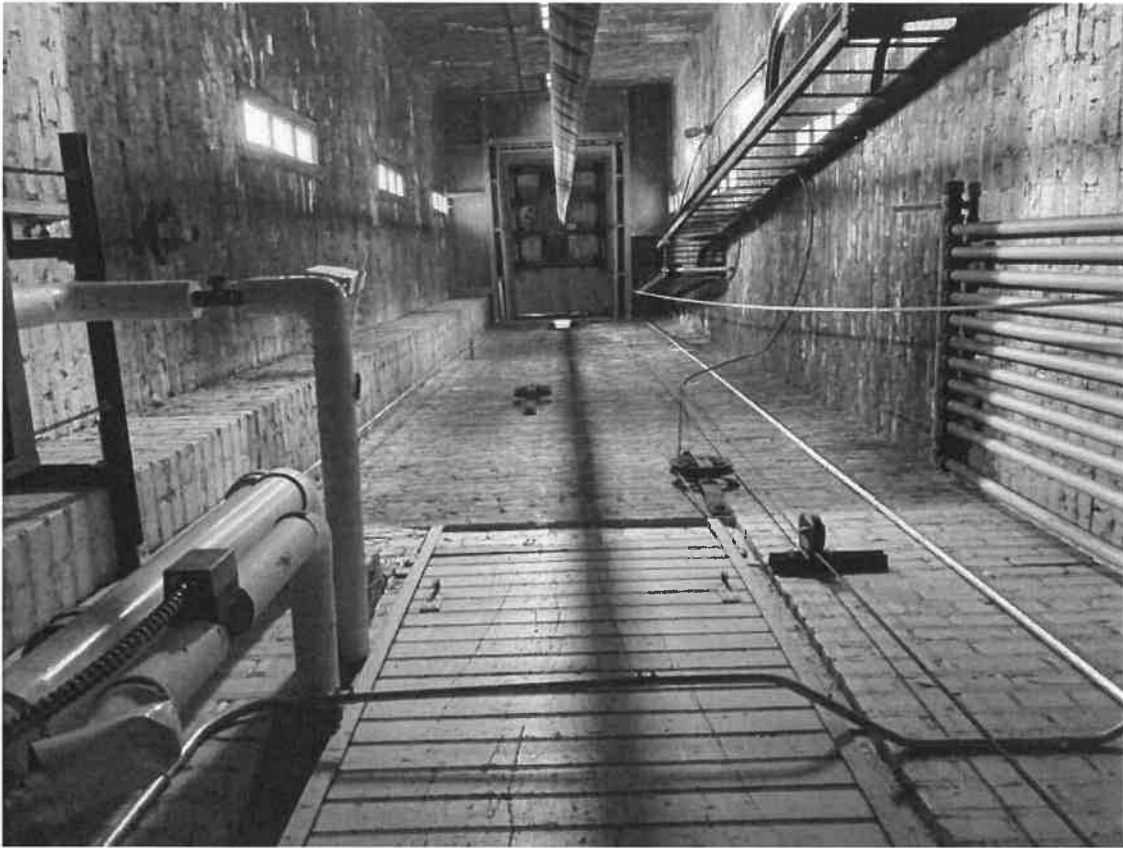
14. East roof penetration.



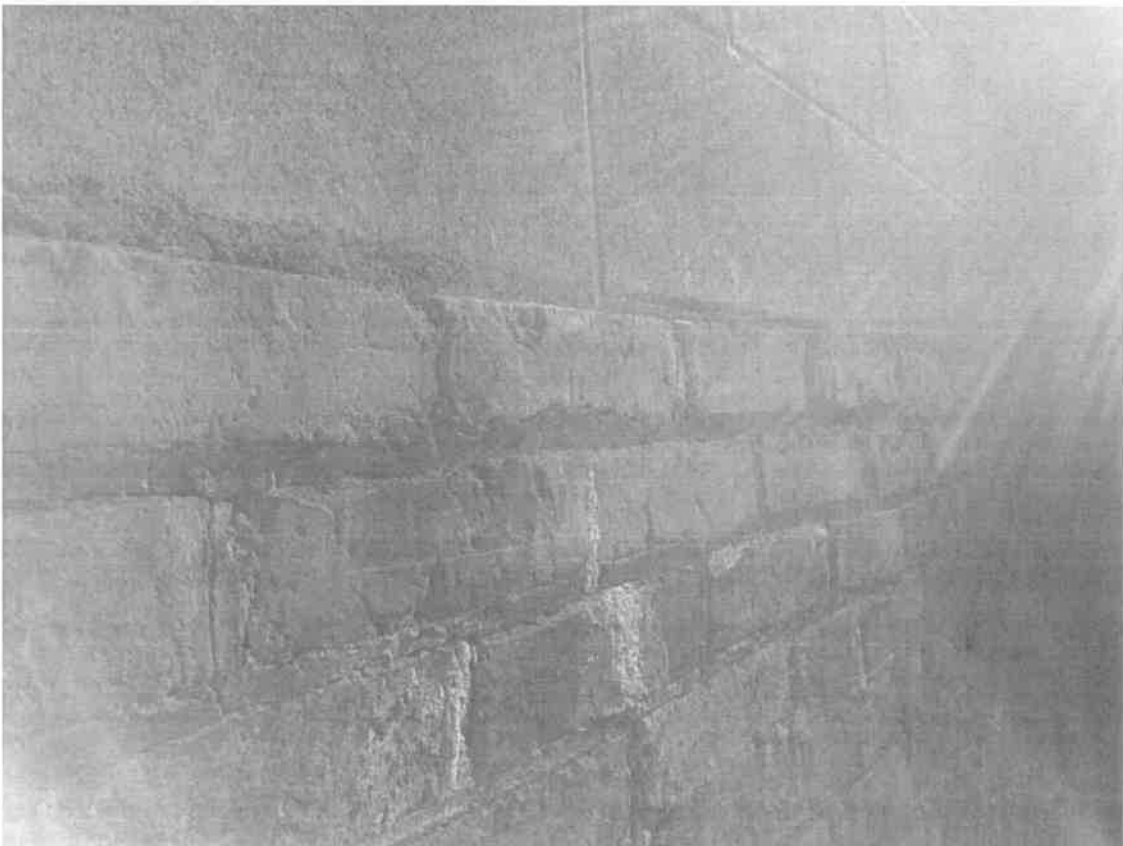
15. East side of tower.



16. View of addition, from below.



17. Interior of tower.



18. Condition of brick on interior, original tower (efflorescence).



19. Interior brick, original structure.



20. Interior brick, original structure.



21. Interior brick and header, addition.



22. Interior brick, addition.