

CASE STUDY

FF30

Four-Fold Door

Washington Township Fire Station 41
Centerville, Ohio

OVERVIEW

Washington Township Fire Department in Montgomery County has constructed a new fire station to replace the aging Station 41, originally built in 1969. The previous facility no longer met the department's operational, spatial, or technological needs. The new station is nearly three times larger, giving firefighters the space and resources required to serve the growing community more effectively.

- **Outdated Infrastructure:** Station 41 lacked the capacity and modern features needed to support today's firefighting operations and equipment.
- **Operational Efficiency:** A larger, more thoughtfully designed layout improves workflow and helps crews respond more quickly and effectively.
- **Modernized Facilities:** The new building includes expanded apparatus bays for larger vehicles, dedicated bunker rooms for firefighter comfort, enhanced safety systems, and upgraded training and fitness areas.
- **Room for Growth:** The station was designed with future expansion in mind, ensuring it can accommodate evolving equipment needs and department growth.



CHALLENGE

The fire station's former apparatus bay doors had become a significant operational and aesthetic liability.

Frequent breakdowns and ongoing maintenance demands disrupted day-to-day readiness and strained facility resources.


Visibility concerns—particularly the inability to clearly see the doors in their fully open position from larger vehicles like the ladder truck—created delays and introduced safety risks during emergency departures.

The outdated door systems also opened far more slowly than modern alternatives, further hindering timely response.

In addition to these performance issues, the aging doors detracted from the station's professional appearance, becoming an unwelcome visual element within the community.



SOLUTIONS

-  **Architectural Integration**
Provides an exceptional complement to the station's architectural design and visual features.
-  **Long-Term Performance**
Four-Fold door operators and components are engineered to deliver over 1.5 million cycles with minimal maintenance requirements.
-  **Enhanced Safety & Response**
Fast 7 second opening and closing speeds support quicker apparatus deployment.

Includes a manual release system for uninterrupted operation during power outages, improving overall response reliability.
-  **Long-Term Performance**
Horizontally bi parting door movement offers a full, clear view of the opening for improved awareness and safety.

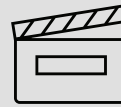
RESULTS

The new station marked a significant step in Washington Township Fire Department's infrastructure modernization plan. The adoption of Four-Fold doors played a central role in enhancing the facility's efficiency and operational readiness.



Award

Washington Township Fire Station 41 won Ohio Fire Department of the year in 2022.



Video Spotlight

In 2026, America By Design featured the Washington Township Fire Station, showcasing its forward-thinking strategy for upgrading departmental facilities. The segment highlighted how the department is integrating modern design and technology to enhance responder safety, accelerate emergency response, and improve situational awareness across its operations



"A product that is superior, and the most reliable apparatus bay door in the industry. They supply a very high-quality product that has proven to be reliable."

- Tim Bement, Principal Architect, App Architecture

