

built in the 1901-20 period. Approximately 20 percent still in service were built in the period 1920-40. Very few were built during the war years of 1941-45.

However, nearly 60 percent of all stations have been built between 1945-60 and perhaps 8 percent since 1961.

The years 1945-60 were periods of great expansion for the fire service in this country. Nearly 45 percent of all existing fire departments were formed during this time, the majority in the smaller communities which accounts for the fire station construction boom during that period.

This was also a period of heavy replacement of structures in the larger departments (delayed by World War II) as well as growth of the larger communities by annexation with the resulting need for new facilities in the annexed portions.

(d) *Ownership and Valuation*

It is believed 95 percent of all fire department buildings are owned by the local government, including tax districts. An estimated 4½ percent are owned by membership corporations, and one-half of 1 percent are county or State owned. The estimated valuation of present buildings is \$3 billion.

B. COSTS AND USER CHARGES

1. CONSTRUCTION AND COSTS

The fire service is expected to spend up to \$191 million during 1966 on building construction. An additional \$8,500,000 will be expended to equip these units with furniture, etc.

In the smaller volunteer departments many of these buildings will be of simple construction such as slab foundation and cinder block walls. The cost¹ will approximate \$18 per square foot.

A station intended to house two to four motor vehicles incorporating excellent design will cost approximately \$25 per square foot. Larger stations of the same design will cost approximately \$20 per square foot.

A 1965 survey of random cities and towns showed the following construction budgets:

TABLE 3

Population group	Number reporting	Dollars budgeted	Average per department
Over 500,000.....	15	8,390,000	\$560,000
100,000 to 499,999.....	30	7,700,000	335,000
50,000 to 99,999.....	25	4,560,000	182,500
10,000 to 49,999.....	74	6,072,000	83,000
2,500 to 9,999.....	24	737,000	31,000
Less than 2,500.....	37	350,000	9,000

¹ Variations in cost per square foot can be expected across the country depending on labor rates. The above figures are based on skilled construction worker rates in the New York City area.