Live Fire Training Facility Project Narrative

PIN: 9871800325
6875 Millhouse Road
11.06 Acres

The Fire Departments in Orange County (10 total including Chapel Hill) have for many years identified a significant need for a joint training facility that could be utilized by departments across the County. In the absence of a joint center, The Chapel Hill Training Grounds became the de facto training site for the County Departments proximate to Chapel Hill. As the condition of the Chapel Hill "burn building" deteriorated we began communicating with The County Commissioners about the urgency of locating a new facility. These discussions went on for several years. Inability to identify land on which to locate the facility and limited financial resources were major obstacles.

Last year, The Orange County Fire Chiefs' Association supported a grant proposal, by Chief Phillip Nassari of the White Cross Volunteer Fire Department, to purchase a connex type live fire training structure. This grant was approved and approximately $350,000 was appropriated for purchase. These types of training structures have become common in recent years. They tend to be less expensive than traditional brick and mortar structures, provide opportunities for multiple training modalities, can be repaired and modified relatively easily and are portable.

This new fire training structure must be purchased, delivered and installed by September 2019. In order to ensure that this training can be delivered to the County, I am requesting that we place it temporarily on Town owned land off of Millhouse Road between our Transit and Public Works facilities. The portability structure will allow for temporary use while other possible locations are explored.

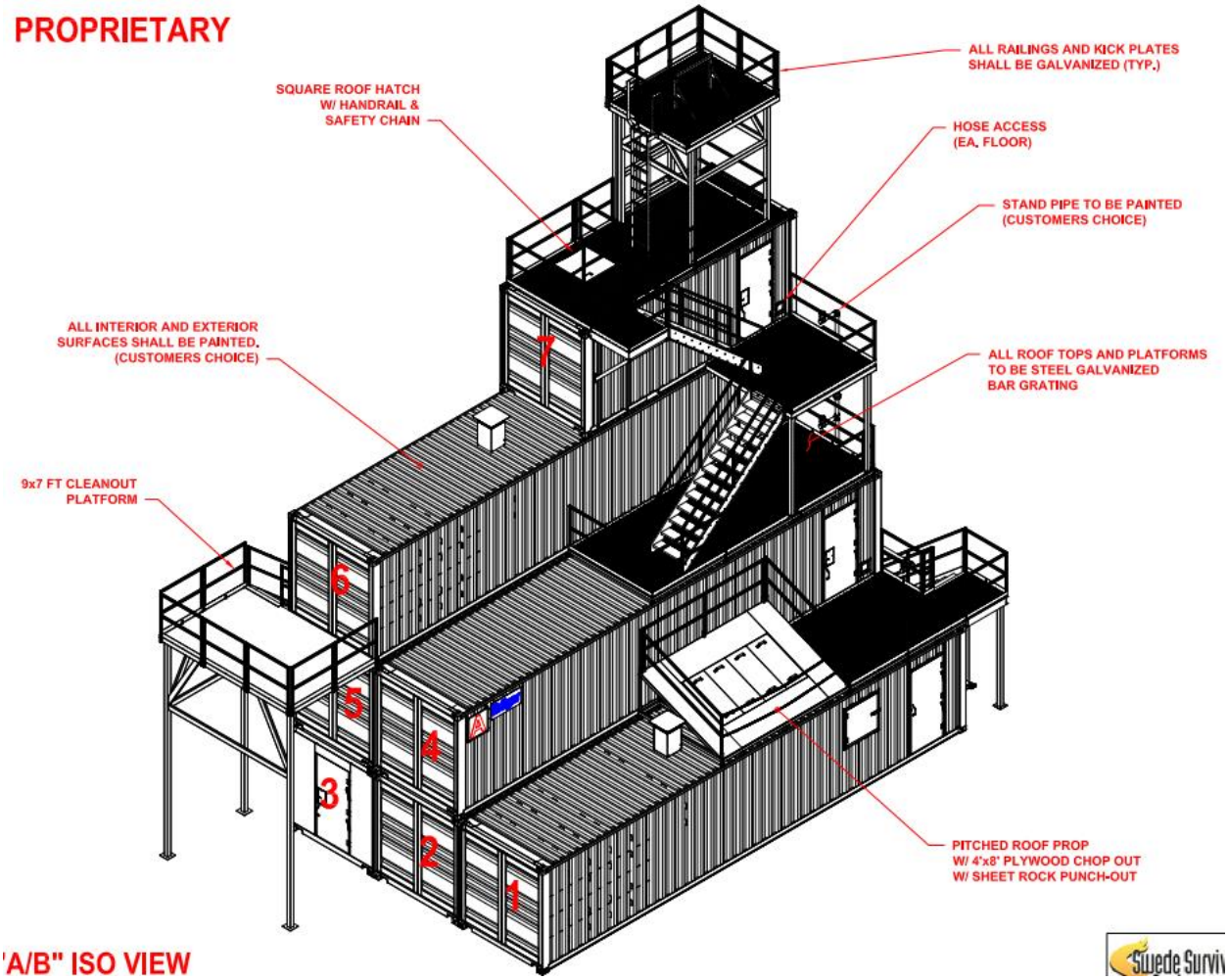
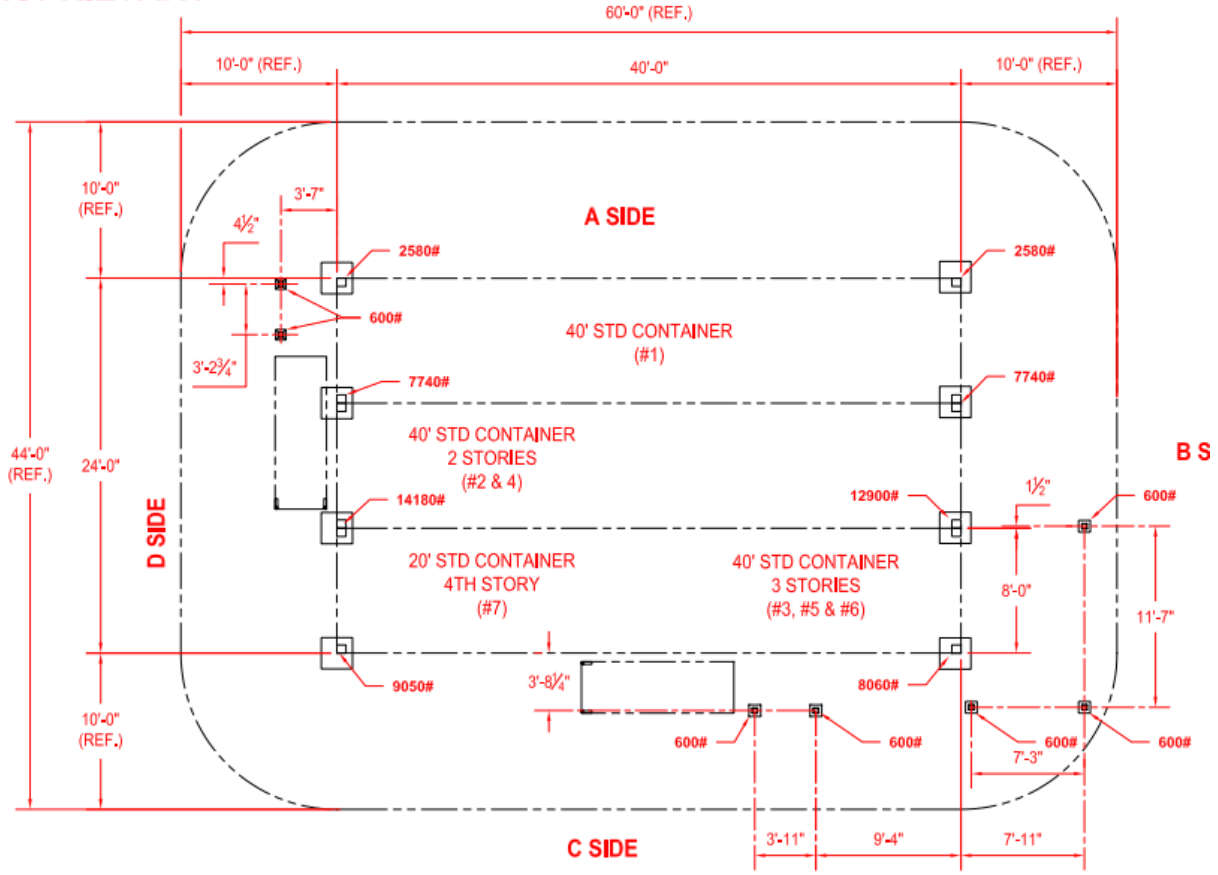
The property is currently zoned MU-R1. We are requesting the property be re-zoned to OI-1 which will allow for the placement and use of the facility on the zoning lot.

Ariel overview of the lot:

Temporary Fire Life Fire Training Facility

The facility is a container-based Class A burn structure that will allow for real fire scenarios. Live Fire Training Systems can be operated with a comprehensive variety of training scenarios residential or commercial. This will allow for Safe, realistic, and customized fire training. These structures are designed with multiple training props, a remote fire control and observation area, various measurement and detection devices, and a ventilation system. The manufacturer of the structure will also provide a comprehensive train-the-trainer course with qualified, experienced instructors.

Placement of the structure will result in minimal land disturbance in a 60’x44’ area.



PROPRIETARY