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Not everything went according to plan on West Allis' new firehouse, but W.B. Corp. rolled with the changes and delivered the \$2 million building, complete with bells and whistles, in mid-July.

"We're proud to have done it," said Project Manager Dan Gorwa, of West Bend-based general contractor W.B. Corp. "The middle of the project fell apart for a little bit, but we just plugged along and did what we were going to do."

West Allis wanted a new fire station to be built next to its existing building on National Avenue. The new fire building, designed by Milwaukee-based Plunkett Raylich Architects with decorative bidders and images of fire hydrants, will allow the city to convert the old building into an office.

"It's kind of a very unique architecture," Gorwa said. "It's definitely a theme building; you definitely couldn't use it for anything else."

Even though West Allis closed bids for the job in June 2002, W.B. couldn't get started until August after the lowest bidder dropped out. That left the general two months short to build the 9,000-square-foot Fire Department building, complete with showers, a kitchen and dorms for full-time firefighters, and a fire truck garage and equipment bay.

Gorwa said the delay left the 20-worker crew out in the cold since they couldn't close the building shell before winter, and their \$2 million bid didn't budget for exterior masonry in the snow. Work on the exterior masonry, interior drywall and windows all had to be delayed, throwing off the project time line by about two months.

"We never stopped working completely — it's just that we couldn't do a lot of things," Gorwa said. "That slowed us down."

Nonetheless, crews moved into the firehouse on July 7 and started taking calls a week later.

Congratulations

We are proud to have been a part of the construction on the West Allis Fire Station #1



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