Public tours offered during Harvest Festival.

A 3,400 square-foot addition to the Gothenburg Volunteer Fire Department's fire station will be open to the public during Harvest Festival this Saturday.

The addition came about when fire fighters decided they needed more room to house the two largest trucks in their fleet as well as space for offices, conferences and general use space.

A back hallway, linking the existing station to the addition, will be lined with lockers for the 44 members to store fire gear.

"They are where the guys can get to the truck bays as fast as possible," said fire chief Mark Ballmer, noting that the lockers were custom built by Harlan Tryon.

Ballmer said the addition was designed by the 10 officers of the department and has been in the works for the past two years.

Lewis Construction of North Platte—the company that built the existing fire hall—is the general contractor for the project. Franzen Inc. is doing the plumbing, heating and air conditioning.

Monsanto donated office equipment such as chairs and tables.

Ballmer said he hopes everything will be completed by the first of October.

He estimated the cost of the project at $200,000.

The Gothenburg Rural Fire Board approved the addition which will be paid by taxpayers in the fire district.

That area is generally from Willow Island to the east and west to Buttermilk Hill east of Brady.

The northern border is 20 miles from Gothenburg with the Tri-County Canal at the southern edge.

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