

For Immediate Release
November 29, 2022

Media Contact: Kim Hunt
Birmingham Airport Authority
khunt@flybirmingham.com
#205-510-6676

Airport Cuts the Ribbon on New \$12.4 Million ARFF Station

New Facility and Equipment – a Critical Part of BHM’s Commitment to Safety

BIRMINGHAM, AL (November 29, 2022) – A new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) station and new ARFF trucks were unveiled to the community today at Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport. The new facility and trucks, together with First Responders, are the cornerstone of BHM’s emergency readiness.

At a ribbon-cutting and unveiling ceremony this afternoon, Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin joined Board members of the Birmingham Airport Authority, project contractors, architects, Birmingham Fire and Rescue, and the airport staff to celebrate the completion of this major project.

Similar to other fire stations in Birmingham and across the U.S., the ARFF station is home base for the men and women who will respond to emergencies. In this case, they are uniquely positioned and specially trained to save lives and property should an aircraft incident or other emergency happen at the airport. AT BHM, ARFF services are provided by Birmingham Fire and Rescue. These emergency responders live at the station when they are on-duty.

“Our commitment to safety at BHM is second to none,” said Darlene Wilson, Board Chair of the Birmingham Airport Authority. “This new building is a testament to the way we take care of the community, visitors, tenants, and those who are out there doing the hard work every day,” said Wilson.

The ARFF Station

Here are some of the highlights of the new ARFF station:

- Building is 17,548 Sq feet
- Total cost: \$12.4 Million with 78% of project funded through federal grants
- Four bays to house ARFF trucks and equipment
- Sleeping quarters for 7
- Men's and Women's locker rooms
- Kitchen and dining area
- Laundry room
- Watch room which allows those on duty an unobstructed view of the airfield
- Training and exercise rooms
- PPE storage
- Gear wash/drying and decontamination room

The ARFF Station Project

The new ARFF station was designed by Architect Clay Dorsey of Birmingham. It was built by Construction Works, Inc. (CWI), a general contractor based in Atlanta. Both of these companies are minority owned and are DBE certified. DBE stands for Disadvantage Business Enterprise which is a federal designation that was established to help traditionally disadvantaged businesses compete for major transportation projects. This represents a milestone at BHM in terms of the level of minority participation in a major project. But it's no accident. Members of the Birmingham Airport Authority Board are continually striving to encourage minority and DBE participation in construction projects.

"We couldn't be more proud of the way this project came together and the diligent work that was done by these companies," said Wilson. "The airport continues to be an economic driver in this community, offering opportunities for businesses large and small."

The ARFF Trucks

The Birmingham Airport Authority has purchased two new Fire Trucks that will be housed in the ARFF station.

The 6x6 Rosenbauer Panther:

- Total cost - \$895,184
- 85% of the total cost was funded through federal grants
- Height – 12'4", Width – 10', Length – 33'5"

- Weight – 50,000+ pounds
- On board foam testing system
- Roof mounted Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) camera system; pan and tilt
- 3,000 - gallon water tank
- 400 - gallon foam tank
- 500 - pound dry chemical complimentary agent
- 54 - foot extendable turret with pierce tip color camera

The 4x4 Rosenbauer Panther:

- Total cost - \$697,343
- 90% of the total cost was funded through federal grants
- Height – 12’2”, Width – 10’, Length – 34’6”
- Weight – 38,210 pounds
- On board foam testing system
- Also has the (FLIR) camera system; pan and tilt
- 1,600 gallon water tank
- 210 gallon foam tank
- 500 pound dry chemical complimentary agent
- Bumper turret
- Roof turret

The total cost of this public safety project (the new ARFF station and the two fire trucks) is just over \$14 million dollars, with 79% of that total funded by Federal Aviation Improvement Program grants. ARFF services, specialized training, and very fast response times are a federal requirement at commercial airports. The regulations are all factored into the specifications of the ARFF station and the ARFF trucks. This project is an example of how the Birmingham Airport Authority is leveraging federal funds to enhance safety on the airfield.

About Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

As Alabama’s largest commercial airport, Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport has served as a gateway to the sky for more than 90 years. Governed by the Birmingham Airport Authority, the airport continues to be a catalyst for growth and economic development for the entire region. For more information, visit flybirmingham.com or follow BHM on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

###