

Project Summary

Project Name and Description: GAR Memorial Hall Elevator Replacement

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall in Hingham, Massachusetts, has a rich history that dates back to the Civil War. The GAR was formed in 1866 and was composed of Union Army veterans. In Hingham, 243 men enlisted, some more than once, and they organized a post in the GAR in 1866. The GAR Hall, built in 1888, was named in honor of an 11th Massachusetts Regiment captain killed in the Gettysburg battle.

The hall served for various purposes, including a silent-movie theater and a dance studio, before being used for veterans' groups and events. The hall is now known as the Grand Army Memorial Hall and is a meeting place for Hingham veterans and a venue for Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. The GAR Hall has been restored and is now home to the Maj. Edwin Cole American Legion Post 120, where local military memorabilia are displayed. The GAR Hall's history and its role in preserving the memory of Hingham's veterans continue to be an important part of the town's heritage.

Project Scope

Replacement of the Y14375 LULA lift at the GAR Memorial Hall located at 358 Main Street. The current LULA lift has been experiencing mechanical difficulties on a consistent basis and needing multiple service calls. Due to all the repairs we have had to limit the building use as it no longer remains ADA compliant without use of the elevator. The entire project will be completed from 180 to 365 days upon receipt of proper funding.

Key Steps of Implementation

The controller, fixtures, door operator and tank unit will all need to be replaced in order to complete the project. A state test will be completed to ensure that the elevator is up to code.

- A New Microprocessor Control System will be installed. This allows for people and cargo to be moved safely and efficiently from one destination to the next. A new digital fault will be added to identify any issues that could potentially happen in the future. Nudging door control, control; for Fire Services, and an ADA signal control will be a part of this new system.
- The fixtures that are located on the car operating panel will be replaced. This includes the buttons and lights. A new faceplate will be installed in the interior of the unit and new wall mounted buttons on each floor will be updated.
- There will be an installation of a closed loop door operator mounted on the top of the car. This will make the performance of the system more consistent and help with future maintenance issues.
- The tank unit (power unit) will be replaced. This unit includes a positive placement pump, motor, integral control valve, oil tank and muffler. This unit may be placed on the car on the top or in some cases, it may need to be mounted on the wall.

This process may need to include work by outside vendors other than the elevator company to ensure that the installation is up to code and will pass the state inspection.

List of Stakeholders

Name of Organization	What GAR is used for	How often is it used
Veteran of Foreign War (VFW) Post 6053	They hold their membership meetings and other events throughout the year.	They meet on the 2 nd Saturday of every month and then reserve the hall for other events throughout the year.
American Legion Post 120	They hold their membership meetings and other events throughout the year	They meet on the 3 rd Monday of every month and then reserve the hall for other events throughout the year.
Hingham Veterans Coffee Hour	This event is for the purposes of outreach for the veterans in Hingham and surrounding communities. Guest speakers are brought in to speak with the veterans and their families to make them aware of benefits and resources that are available to them.	They meet on the 3 rd Friday of every month.
Hingham Militia	They hold their membership meetings and other events throughout the year. They also store all of their equipment that they use for events in town.	They meet as often as they need in order to plan their participation in any events that are requested that they attend.
GAR Open House	There is a rich history of how Hingham residents played a part in defending our nation. The museum holds that history inside with amazing historical displays.	The 1 st and 3 rd Saturday of every month from 10am to 2pm, GAR is open to the public in order to share the history of our town veterans.
Scouts	They hold meetings in the hall as part of their curriculums.	As often they need the space and the hall can accommodate.
Hingham High School	The history department over the last 10 or more years has conducted a sophomore history day as part of their curriculum to show the students how Hingham residents impacted this nation.	One day in March
Other organizations, town meetings, etc.	The facility is used to conduct meetings for various organizations. Memorial Day and Veterans' Day events are held there.	The facility is open to be used by residents for various functions per the approval of Veterans' Services and/or the GAR Trustees.

Professional Oversight and Ongoing Project Management Responsibility

- Veterans Services Director Shannon Burke
- GAR Trustees: Scott McMillan, Robert Beal Jr., and William P. Koenen

Anticipated Maintenance and Responsibility

The current annual budget that has been established for repairs and maintenance for GAR was set at \$10,100. During FY 25, we spent almost doubled that amount of money due to consistent need for repairs. So far in FY 26, we have spent \$7416.13 of our annual budget of \$10,100. The completion of this project will allow us to stay within our budget parameters for the hall. Please review FY 25 and FY 26 budget reports that are attached.

Benefits to the Town of Hingham

The GAR Hall is a treasure that as a community, we should be proud to showcase. After the Civil War, every town in the Commonwealth built a GAR Hall and currently only 6 remain in Massachusetts. By completing this project, we are ensuring that ALL of the residents of Hingham and the surrounding towns have complete access to such an amazing piece of Hingham history. Currently, the elevator is not dependable and residents are not able to attend events at the hall due to mobility issues that they are experiencing.

Success of Implementation

The elevator replacement will improve the access to all floors of the GAR hall in a safe manner.

Control of the Site

The site is currently owned by the Town of Hingham and is managed by the GAR Trustees and the Veterans' Services Department.

Feasibility

No further actions or evaluations need to be conducted of the site. While the building is a historical site, replacing the elevator with another one will not affect the integrity of the site in any manner. The elevator shaft is already in place and will not need to be replaced or altered, only the inside components of the car that operates it need to be replaced and updated.

The following attachments are included with this application:

- A proposal from Delta Beckwith (the current company that holds the maintenance contract) on what it will cost to replace the unit. Buckley Elevator and United Elevator Company were contacted but did not respond to our request for proposal.
- GAR Memorial Hall Pictures
- FY 25 and FY 26 budgets