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Work on police station hits high gear

By Brian Livingston / blivingston@themeridianstar.com

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MERIDIAN —

Workers are busy at the Meridian Police Department's new site on 22nd Avenue.

Although from the outside it appears as if there is little activity, inside crews are framing, wiring, pouring concrete and performing dozens of other jobs to get the future station completed.

"People ask me all the time if we are going to do something and I tell them we have been for the past eight weeks," Tim Allred said with a laugh.

Allred's company, Heritage Building Corporation, is the major contractor for the station.

"We park in the back and work inside so nobody from the road sees anything going on," Allred said.

Work had stalled on the multi-million dollar project as David Watkins of Watkins Development awaited tax credits from state and federal sources. But now that the engineering and architectural plans have been finalized, Allred said the project is full steam ahead.

"All the stud walls are up and you can see clearly the layout of the floor plan," Allred said. "We are pouring the footing for the support posts where the evidence holding area will be because we will be putting a concrete roof over that for security reasons."

Security, fire, electrical and other systems installations are going on right now, Allred said. He said 90 percent of the work is being done inside, with anywhere between 50 to 75 workers on the site every day.

The city will pay rent over a period of 20 years for a minimum of \$8.2 million, including \$2.1 million the city will pay up front from funds derived from police department seized property.

The annual rent will be \$305,000, allowing for possible increases based on the consumer price index every five years.

Once the bulk of the inside construction is done, Allred said the outside work will begin.

Allred said once the project is completed, citizens of Meridian and the police officers and civilians who work within the department will have a facility they can all be proud of.

