

Town of Springside Fire Hall Expansion Survey

The Town of Springside and Springside Fire Rescue are seeking input from ratepayers on the proposed fire hall expansion. Fire Rescue members have worked hard over several years to raise funds for this important project, construction plans and tenders have now been completed in partnership with the Town. Approximately half of the required funding has been raised to date.

Our firefighters proudly serve our community and the surrounding rural municipalities by responding to emergencies, fires, motor vehicle accidents, medical calls, hazardous situations, and mutual aid requests. As demand for services continues to grow and regulations change, the current fire hall no longer meets the operational needs of the department.

With construction costs continuing to rise, Council is considering whether borrowing the remaining funds may be more practical than delaying the project and facing further increases. This survey is intended to help Council understand the Town's ratepayer level of support before deciding whether to proceed with the next stage of the project.

Key Concerns

- Limited space for emergency equipment
- Inadequate fire hydrant capacity for Springside residents to qualify for potential insurance premium discounts
- Insufficient room for firefighter training and safety operations
- Increasing emergency call demands
- Challenges with efficient emergency response times and operations

Why is a fire hall expansion needed?

- The current facility no longer adequately supports equipment storage, operational space, firefighter safety, or future growth.
- Operational standards require emergency equipment to be located within Springside. Currently, the department rents a second hall south of Orcadia for the tanker and wildland unit.
- As the community evolves, emergency services must adapt to meet increasing demands.

What could this cost ratepayers?

The most recent tender, received in May 2026, came in at approximately \$780,000-\$800,000. This amount has increased substantially over the past five years since the fire department first began planning for a new hall.

While the exact loan payment is not yet confirmed, current estimates suggest an annual payment of approximately \$40,000 to \$45,000. Springside Fire Rescue is confident it can generate the revenue needed for the payments through fundraising and department efforts.

Springside Fire Rescue operates with approximately 8% of its funding from Springside property taxes, with the remainder coming from outside contracts, call revenue, fundraising, and donations. The department expects future donations and external revenue to support repayment of the loan, rather than relying on additional tax dollars. However, because the Town would be the borrower and would ultimately be responsible for the loan, Council must carefully consider the commitment on behalf of ratepayers.

Council must also balance this project with other community priorities, including the Water Treatment Plant and reservoir, Ridge Runner Arena repairs, roads, sidewalks, and water distribution system needs.

What are the benefits for ratepayers?

A growing, well-maintained community supports property values and helps attract new residents, families, and investment. Unlike vehicles or equipment, a building can retain and increase its value over time while continuing to serve the community for many years.

Improving fire apparatus standards may also help reduce insurance premiums. If the community were to lose its fire department entirely, residents could see significant increases to fire insurance premiums.

A modern facility can improve efficiency, organization, training capability, and operational readiness.

Some trucks and equipment are currently stored at a second location in the Rural Municipality of Orkney. During an emergency, individual members must determine which hall to attend before responding. Consolidating equipment in one location would make the response process more efficient and help reduce response time when every second counts, allowing immediate access when dispatched. Other possible benefits include:

- Improved public safety for all residents
- Provide safer working conditions for firefighters
- Protect valuable emergency equipment and apparatus
- Support recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters
- Create a reliable emergency services facility for decades to come

Why is Council and Springside Fire Rescue asking for your input?

A financial commitment of this size is a significant decision for the community. While Town Council was elected to represent residents in the day-to-day operations of the Town, Council does not wish to proceed with this level of commitment without first hearing from ratepayers. Residents can support the process by completing the survey, attending meetings, sharing information respectfully, and participating in community discussions.

Please complete the attached survey on the reverse side of this page or use the QR code to complete it online. Responses will be kept confidential and will be used to help guide Council's decision-making. Surveys will only be accepted from Town of Springside ratepayers, so please include your name and civic address. Completed surveys can be hand delivered to the Town Office, mailed to Town Office, Box 414, Springside, SK, S0A 3V0 or emailed to: springside@sasktel.net.

Need more information before completing your survey?

A Town Hall Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Town Council and Springside Fire Rescue members will be available to answer questions, provide additional information, and speak with ratepayers about the proposed expansion. Survey submissions will be accepted until July 27, 2026 to allow ratepayers time to get more information before completing the survey if necessary.

Your input is appreciated and will help Council make an informed decision on behalf of the community.

Recognizing Springside Fire Rescue

Springside Fire Rescue members have made significant contributions to the department and to the safety, preparedness, and well-being of the broader community. Their work reflects many hours of volunteer time, training, fundraising, and emergency response. Their efforts include:

- By working hard to meet Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency operational-level requirements, Springside Fire Rescue qualified for approximately \$100,000 in vehicle extrication equipment and training at no charge—one of only 80 of 400 departments in Saskatchewan to qualify.
- Securing a donated rescue vehicle to replace the former unit, valued at approximately \$20,000.
- Hosting events and raffles to help purchase required equipment—including a Wildland Unit, tanker, RAM, air monitoring unit, thermal camera, toolbox, hose washer, and more—totaling approximately \$50,000 over seven years.
- Obtaining a GlobalMedic Wildland Skid donation valued at approximately \$8,000.
- Stretching budget dollars by purchasing used essential equipment where appropriate, such as a \$700 ground monitor instead of a new unit costing more than \$8,000.
- Responding to the Northern Saskatchewan fires in summer 2025, bringing approximately \$265,000 back for area fire protection while helping affected communities.
- Participating in monthly training and community events, including school water fights, education events, bike rodeos, Street Fair, Canada Day fireworks safety, and more.
- **Doing all of this while leaving their families, jobs, and responsibilities to respond to real-life fire and rescue calls.**

Please take the time to show all our hard working fire department members appreciation for all they do for our community. Their commitment helps keep Springside and the surrounding area safer, stronger, and better prepared.

COMMUNITY SURVEY FOR A FIRE HALL EXPANSION

As a resident of Springside, I support the planning and construction of a fire hall addition to better serve our community's emergency response and public safety needs and reduce annual fire insurance premiums.

Our current facility no longer adequately supports the operational needs of the fire department or the future stability of our community. A new fire hall would improve firefighter safety, emergency preparedness, equipment storage, training capability and emergency response for residents and travelers in and around our town.

I respectfully ask Town Council to approve obtaining a loan to finance the remaining portion of the fire hall addition in 2026.

Printed Name	Signature	Civic Address	Phone Number
AGREE:			
_____	_____	_____	_____
DISAGREE:			
_____	_____	_____	_____

Please complete this survey by adding your name, address and phone number on either the “AGREE” or “DISAGREE” section above. Completed surveys can be hand delivered to the Town Office, mailed to Town Office, Box 414, Springside, SK, S0A 3V0 or emailed to: springside@sasktel.net.

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