

# CITY OF FORT SASKATCHEWAN

## Second Fire Station Build Timeline

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### **Purpose:**

To provide the Council with information as to the proposed timeline for design, construction and opening of the second fire station.

### **Background:**

In 2013 the Fire Department engaged Fire Underwriters to prepare and present a Fire Insurance Grade Update Report. This Report recommended that with the current growth of the City that "The City of Fort Saskatchewan should complete a study concerning the benefits of moving to 2 fire halls in order to reduce road response travel times and obtain further credit within this portion of the Fire Insurance Grading".

In 2015 Darkhorse Emergency Services was engaged to conduct a Fire Station Location Study and provide a fire station location tool that could be used in selecting an appropriate site for a second fire station. This information was presented to the Mayor and Councillors at the May 17, 2016 Workshop.

With the use of the fire station location tool, a site was selected and purchased in November of 2016. The site, located just east of Heartland Ford, has been signed "Future home of Fire Station 2" in order to inform neighbouring properties and the public for the future use of the property.

Now that the site has been selected and purchased, the question of where a second fire station needs to be built has been answered. The question as to when the second fire station should be built can now be explored.

With the location of the second fire station now known, and utilizing the Department's record management system, the City has been divided into two fire station service areas (map attached) to monitor call volumes by service area. Records show that in the past five years the call volume for the two fire station service areas is 47% and 53%, with the higher percentage being the second fire station service area.

In a community of our size, research shows best practice for a fire station service area is approximately 360 calls per service area per year. For the City this equates to a total call volume of approximately 720 calls per year. In 2016 the Department responded to 376 calls.

In the past 15 years the Department's call volume growth has averaged 15% per year, and over the past five years, on average the Department has experienced a 7% growth per year. The following table outlines a projected growth based on 15% and 7% per year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>15% growth per year</b>	<b>7% growth per year</b>	<b>Recommended Action</b>
2016	376	376	
2017	432	402	
2018	497	430	
2019	<b>572*</b>	461	<b>*Design the second station with 2021 opening</b>
2020	658	493	
2021	756	527	
2022	870	564	
2023	1000	604	
2024		<b>646*</b>	<b>*Design the second station with 2026 opening</b>
2025		691	
2026		740	

The above table lays out two very likely scenarios that will be monitored going forward to predict the timeline for design, construction and opening of the second fire station. Should call volume growth increase or decrease in the future, the timeline will be adjusted accordingly.

**Attachment:**

Approximate Fire Hall Service Areas Map

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Prepared by:	James Clark Fire Chief	Date: April 10, 2017
Approved by:	Brenda Rauckman General Manager, Community and Protective Services	Date: May 2, 2017
Reviewed by:	Troy Fleming Acting City Manager	Date: May 4, 2017
Submitted to:	City Council	Date: May 9, 2017