



Mountain View
C O U N T Y

Media Release

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County disappointed With Olds Fire Services Termination Notice

The news that the Town of Olds has passed a motion to terminate the Fire Services Sub Agreement with Mountain View County is disappointing but the County wants rural residents of the Olds Fire District to be assured that fire and emergency protective services will remain uninterrupted.

Mountain View County, as required by the Municipal Government Act, has successfully negotiated and maintains a large number of agreements with all of our Urban Partners to deal with mutual services including Recreation and Culture, Family and Community Support Services, Agricultural Inspection Services and Emergency Services. With the motion by the Town of Olds, Mountain View County will investigate all options to provide future fire services in the rural portion of the Olds Fire District while continuing to provide its share of funding that aligns with the service levels that Mountain View County residents expect and have been fortunate to receive from the Olds Fire Department.

Fire Services agreements tend to require frequent discussion between the County and the five urban partners due to the important nature of the service, changing safety standards, and ongoing capital needs. Mountain View County remains committed to providing a high level of fire service in all five fire districts within the County and remains resolute that formal agreements with our urban partners is the best means to achieving this goal.

According to an article published in the Mountain View Albertan (July 20, 2021 edition) the Town of Olds believes that the County is “underpaying for the service that (the Town of Olds is) providing”. Mountain View County residents should be aware that Council remains fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars while ensuring that the County pays its fair share. In the 2021 County Budget, the Town of Olds is scheduled to receive \$215,892 for fire operating which remains one of the largest per capita contributions that Mountain View County provides to any of our Urban Partners for Fire Suppression, although the County receives the same level of service from the Town of Olds as it does across the region. Further, on both a per capita basis and a percentage of total municipal taxation, Mountain View County contributes more than the Town of Olds for Fire Services, while receiving a lesser service level simply due to geographic and topographical constraints, distance from the Fire Hall and availability of water.

Residents should be confident in high quality services that they receive from the dedicated members of the Olds Fire Department and all Fire Departments throughout the region. By no means is this disagreement a reflection of their valued service to our community. Mountain View County thanks those members for their continued dedicated service. The County has been proud to fund the Olds Fire Department, their operations and the many capital assets that have been provided to the department over the years, including a new Tanker that the County funded independently for over \$430,000 in 2020, part of an approximate \$830,000 contribution to apparatus purchases in the last five years.

In summary, Mountain View County residents should be assured that their level of Fire Services has not, and will not, change due to this termination notice provided by the Town of Olds. Mountain View County intends to continue to work, in a fiscally prudent and service level driven manner to ensure that all options are considered for the provision of Fire Services to the Olds Rural Fire District in the future.

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