

Update from Rural Municipality Representatives to the Town of Biggar Withdrawal

August 6, 2026

The rural municipality representatives of the Biggar Rural District Fire Association would like to sincerely apologize to their ratepayers for the post that has caused great concern and questions. We were not aware that the notice was going to be posted.

We only received the notice of withdrawal from the Town of Biggar on Friday, July 25 and as most are aware rural councils only meet once a month and the BRDFA meets every second month. The rural members have not had the opportunity to meet and discuss next steps and once a decision is made to inform the ratepayers.

The Biggar Rural District Fire Association rural representatives would like to assure the rural municipalities that there will be no disruption to protective fire services and will continue to offer fire protective services to their respective municipalities as the agreement is in place until November 1 2026.

In reviewing and updating the current agreement 6 out of 7 representatives of the BRDFA voted to amend the agreement to include call outs to the Town and this revised agreement was forwarded to all the municipalities to ratify, all voted in favour but for the Town of Biggar who unfortunately chose to withdraw.

Throughout the discussions the Town only offered 2 options. Option 1 a reduced call out fee and Option 2 an increase to Town's membership fee.

The board considered the two proposals but determined they could not support either option as the Association strongly feels that approving a concession for one member would create an inequity among the membership and be inconsistent with BRDFA's position that all member municipalities and by extension their ratepayers should be treated fairly and equitably.

Their decision making is guided by the principle that costs should be shared in a manner that is consistent for all members, regardless of location or frequency of incidents.

The members acknowledge that the Town does not bill their ratepayers for call outs and what the Town's approach for recovering these costs is, is entirely a matter for the Town to determine.

The Biggar Rural District Fire Association formed in the early 2000s to offer protective fire services for the following municipalities: RM of Biggar, Glenside, Rosemount, and Grandview.

There was an agreement in place with the Town of Biggar prior to them becoming a member in 2019. BRDFA owned their own Fire Truck, a 60% share of the Rescue truck and contributed to capital purchases that may have been acquired if needed.

The Town of Biggar requested to become a member of the BRDFA in June of 2019. By joining the BRDFA all operating expenses for the Volunteer Fire Department are now paid by the 5 member municipalities.

Each member pays a membership fee currently \$2,000/township, RM of Biggar \$36,000, Glenside \$18,000, Grandview \$15,000, Rosemount \$12,000 and the Town of Biggar \$36,000. This membership fee covers the operating expenses of the Volunteer Fire Department such as wages, training, insurance, fuel, tires, equipment maintenance, safety gear, fire hall utilities, etc.

This fee is included in all participating members budgets which are supported by your taxes.

These are three examples of the operating costs the BRDFA has funded from 2020-2025.

Additional Training 2020-2025	Safety Gear 2020-2025	Equipment Repairs and Purchases 2020-2025
\$19,838	\$118,459	\$73,910

Below is an outline of how the Call Out Fees fund the operation expenses if there is a deficit, and if there is a surplus the reserve account for future capital purchases.

BRDFA has a policy for false alarms which rural municipalities have followed since this policy was implemented. The Town of Biggar only started implementing this policy in 2025.

2020-2025

Capital Purchases and Repairs	Reserve Transfers Funded by RM Call Out Fees	Call Outs include RMS, SGI, false alarms (wages are not included)	False Alarm Call Outs Town of Biggar (wages are not included)
\$269,671	\$190,0000	\$231,352	\$14,605

CAPITAL PURCHASES funded by Reserve Account	
C-Can \$3,180	\$3,180
Wildland Brush Truck <i>This was offset by contributions from generous donors, the member municipalities and BRDFA</i>	\$143,767.50
Truck	\$15,977
PJ Single Axle Utility Trailer	\$3,285
CAPITAL REPAIRS funded by Reserve Account	
C-Can Training Centre <i>Town of Biggar donated lot and chain link fence</i>	\$16,304
Town Fire Truck pump repairs	\$30,137
Ladder Aerial Truck repair	\$41,023

Biggar Volunteer Fire Department Structural/Grass Fires and False Alarms

2025

	RMs	Town of Biggar	SGI
Grass/Structure Fires	10	3	9
FALSE ALARMS	6	23	
ATV Accidents	2		

Our primary goal has always been the safety and well-being of our community. We want to assure all ratepayers that the Biggar Rural District Fire Association remains committed to providing quality fire protection and emergency services to their region. This change will not affect our operational capabilities or our dedication to serving you.

We are actively reviewing our strategies to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our community. We believe that with effective communication and collaboration with neighbouring municipalities, we can maintain and strengthen our services going forward.

We welcome any feedback from community members and encourage open dialogue as we navigate this transition. Please reach out to your respective municipalities.

The BRDFA rural members would also like to thank Ivan Young, Town representative, for his professionalism and support of the Biggar Rural District Fire Association, the Volunteer Fire Department and his taxpayers. It was a pleasure having you at the table these past six years.

Thank you for your understanding and support during this time.

Representatives of the Biggar Rural District Fire Association

RM of Biggar

RM of Grandview

RM of Glenside

RM of Rosemount