



Town of Spirit River
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November 27, 2023

Re: 2023 Spirit River Airport Update

To All G5 Participating Municipalities,

The year 2022 seen great improvements completed at the Spirit River Airport for the runway lighting, automated weather observing system, and other necessary features needed for operation. In addition, the Town partnered with Municipal District of Spirit River to complete a Winter Maintenance Program to be used as operational guidelines. As such, the region was rewarded in 2023 by having AHS Air Ambulance Services reinstated and we were all recognized by the Alberta Airport Management Association for small town contribution to the airport industry. Thank you to everyone who contributed to project - Village of Rycroft, Saddle Hills County, and Municipal District of Spirit River.

Improvements at the airport continued in 2023 which led to increased usage and interest. JetPro completed surveying of the airport runway to install/register a satellite-based instrument approach and departure procedures (RNAV System), which allows aircrafts to land and take off when visibility is minimal. Alberta Forestry marshalled its crews, helicopters and used the airport as a base to combat wildfires in the area this summer. As well, the Town had over 100 miscellaneous flights logged, 44 emergency flights, hosted a 3 day sky diving course, welcomed 2 new service providers, and is negotiating development of a new airport hanger. The airport continues to be an active service hub for government, agricultural, health, oil/gas and recreational purposes for residents throughout the G5 and beyond (northern BC and all of Alberta).

The financial snapshot for the airport in 2023 included revenue received from intermunicipal grants and airplane hanger rentals totaling \$16,200 while the expenses included those previously mentioned. The Town greatly appreciates the 2023 intermunicipal grants received from Saddle Hills County and the Municipal District of Spirit River which helps with the continued operation of the airport.

Spirit River Airport Financial Summary 2023

Revenue 2023:	(\$16,200)
Improvement Expenses 2023:	\$21,775
Operational Expenses 2023:	\$16,101
Yearly Deficit:	\$21,676

The Municipal District has offered to partner with the Town going forward to help with the continued operations and maintenance of the airport. However, any additional financial contributions from the participating G5 Municipalities to lessen the debt, would be welcomed. If the G5 cost sharing formula was applied, contributions for 2023 would be as outlined below.

Spirit River Airport Contribution Request Summary

30% Saddle Hills	\$1,362.80	(received 2023 - \$10,000)
20% Municipal District of Spirit River	\$2,575.20	(received 2023 - \$5,000)
20% Birch Hills	\$42,803.05	(2022 - \$35,227.85 & 2023 - \$7,575.20)
20% Town of Spirit River	\$7,575.20	
10% Village of Rycroft	\$3,787.50	

The Town and the Municipal District will be working with Global Airport Services to establish the general direction and improvement recommendations for the Spirit River Airport. Much of the information will be based on information collected from Council, Administration, and the existing conditions of the airport.

Please have Council discuss and advise the Town if any or if additional financial contributions can be made by your municipality for the 2023 operating year. Any amount of financial contribution to lessen the debt would be appreciated.

Thank you.



Steve Jack, CAO
Town of Spirit River