

Agenda
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Meeting will be held as follows:

Date: September 21, 2026

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fire Hall No. 1

455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island and Electronic Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

1. CALL TO ORDER

We would like to begin this meeting by acknowledging that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations. This meeting is an official forum for the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Board to conduct its business. This is a place of employment, and our staff have the right to a safe and respectful workplace.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. BOARD MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting held July 20, 2026 – For Approval

That the draft minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting held July 20, 2026 be adopted.

3.2 Minutes of the Town Hall meeting held September 14, 2026 – For Approval

That the draft minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting held September 14, 2026 be adopted.

4. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

5. TOWN HALL SESSION

Members of the public can address questions or comments, and we request that you direct comments to the Board and not other members of the public, speak to the issues and not individuals and be clear, concise and respectful.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Communications & Marketing Committee

6.1.1 Minutes of the August 4, 2026 meeting – For Information

6.2 Finance & Audit Committee

6.2.1 Minutes of the July 14, 2026 meeting – For Information

- 6.2.2 Minutes of the August 11, 2026 meeting – For Information
- 6.2.3 Minutes of the September 14, 2026 meeting – For Information

6.3 Joint Occupational Health & Wellness Safety Committee

- 6.3.1 Minutes of the July 29, 2026 meeting – For Information

6.4 Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee

- 6.4.1 Minutes of the August 4, 2026 meeting – For Information

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 2026-07-29 Email Received from D. Courtney Re Satellite Hall
- 7.2 2026-08-31 Email from CRD Re Proposal for Expanded Pickle Ball at Fulford Fire Hall

8. REPORTS

- 8.1 Fire Chief's Report – July & August 2026 - Pending
- 8.2 Salt Spring Island Fire Fighters' Association Report – July & August 2026 - Pending
- 8.3 CAO Reports
 - 8.3.1 Budget Report to 2026-06-30
 - 8.3.2 Budget Report to 2026-07-31
 - 8.3.3 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-07-22 Re Campfire Ban
 - 8.3.4 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-08-05 Re Campfire Ban and Deployment
 - 8.3.5 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-08-19 Re Moving to New Hall Notice
 - 8.3.6 Driftwood Notice Dated 2026-08-26 Re New Hall Opening Event Invitation
 - 8.3.7 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-09-02 Re EV Chargers
 - 8.3.8 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-09-09 Re New Hall Opening Event
 - 8.3.9 Driftwood Article Dated 2026-09-09 Re Campfire Ban Lifted
 - 8.3.10 Driftwood Notice Dated 2026-09-09 Re Town Hall Meeting

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 Draft 5-Year (2026–2031) Strategic Plan

That the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee to approve the Draft 5-Year (2026–2031) Strategic Plan.

9.2 Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS)

- 9.2.1 SSIFPD Insurance Letter Re: Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls – For Information

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Draft 2027 Budget

That the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee to approve the draft 2027 Budget as presented

10.2 New Fire Hall Project Review Report

10.3 Fire Hall No. 1 Room Rentals

That the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Finance and Audit Committee to approve the Fire Hall No. 1 Room Rentals 2026 Fee Schedule.

10.4 Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07 – Staff Report

That the Board of Trustees accept the recommendation of the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee to approve the Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07.

10.4.1 Draft Community Relations Committee Annual Plan for 2026/2027

That the Board of Trustees approve the draft Community Relations Committee Annual Plan for 2026/2027.

10.5 Fire Hall No. 1 Commissioning – Time Capsule

11 BYLAWS

11.1 Draft Bylaw No. 163 – Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw 2027

That the Board of Trustees give first reading to Draft Bylaw No. 163 cites as the “Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw 2027”

12. IN-CAMERA MEETING

13. NEXT MEETING

The next Regular Meeting will be held on October 19, 2026.

14. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

**Minutes of the
Regular Trustee Meeting of the
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District**

Date: July 20, 2026

Location: Apparatus Bay, Ganges Fire Hall
105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island and Electronic Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

Trustees Present: Rollie Cook, Chair
Mary Lynn Hetherington, Trustee
Ronald Lindstrom, Trustee
Dennis Lucarelli, Trustee
Darryl Martin, Trustee
Robin Williams, Trustee

Trustee Regrets: Rob Oliver, Trustee

Staff Members Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer
Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
Mysha Dewar-McClelland, Recorder

Staff Regrets: Hans Hazenboom, New Fire Hall Project Owner's Representative

Others Present: Driftwood Reporter (Teams)

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cook called the meeting to order 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

3. BOARD MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Trustee Meeting held June 15, 2026 – For Approval

The draft minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting held June 15, 2026 were presented.

2026-060

MOVED by Trustee Williams, SECONDED by Trustee Hetherington,

That the draft minutes of the Regular Trustee meeting held June 15, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED

DRAFT

4. PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - None

5. TOWN HALL SESSION

Chair Cook opened the town hall at 7:02 p.m. There were no members of the public in attendance.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Communications & Marketing Committee – None

6.2 Finance & Audit Committee

6.2.1 Minutes of the July 14, 2026 meeting - None

6.3 Joint Occupational Health & Wellness Safety Committee

6.3.1 Minutes of the June 24, 2026 meeting – For Information

By general consent, the minutes were received.

6.4 Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee

6.4.1 Minutes of the July 7, 2026 meeting – For Information

By general consent, the minutes were received.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Letter Dated 2026-06-16 Received from Ministry of Labour Re: Provincial Infrastructure Support

A Letter dated June 16, 2026 received from the Ministry of Labour Regarding Provincial Infrastructure Support was presented. It was noted the letter did not reference the District's request to source equipment from suppliers outside of the United States.

By general consent, the Board of Trustees request CAO Dieleman to respond to the letter with the question regarding alternative apparatus suppliers outside the U.S. market.

7.2 Letter Dated 2026-06-18 Received from Minister Boyle Re: Improvement Districts

A letter dated June 18, 2026 received from Minister Boyle regarding Improvement Districts was presented.

By general consent, the correspondence items were received.

8. REPORTS

8.1. Fire Chief's Report – May and June 2026

Chief Holmes presented the Fire Chief's report for May and June 2026 and highlighted the following:

- The two structure fires identified in the reporting period were quickly contained to their points of origin, resulting in minimal damage.
- Construction of the new Fire Hall 1 is nearing completion.
- Training on Ladder 1 has commenced, and additional equipment will be required to support operations.
- The Ganges Fire Hall office will close on July 23, 2026, and remain closed until the new fire hall at 455 Lower Ganges Road is ready to open to the public
- Recruit training continues to progress well, with members working toward Live Fire training scheduled for September.
- In response to a Trustee's inquiry regarding support for provincial wildfire efforts, Chief Holmes advised that department members continue to train and remain available for deployment as needed.
- A complete fire ban is currently in effect on Salt Spring Island, including campfires and wood-burning pizza ovens.

8.2. Salt Spring Island Fire Fighters' Association Report – June 2026

The Association report for June 2026 was presented.

- SSIFR, IAFF Local 4467, and the Fire Fighters' Association supported the participation of five local female youth in the Island Ignite program, which introduces young women to careers in the fire service.
- The Association is hosting the inaugural Gangelina Wine Mixer fundraising event on July 25, 2026 at the Farmer's Institute in support of the BC Burn Fund.

By general consent, the Association Report for June 2026 was received.

8.3. CAO Reports

8.3.1 Budget Report to May 31, 2026

CAO Dieleman advised that the May 2025 report had been included in the agenda package in error. The agenda package will be updated to include the May 2026 Budget report and will be available on the website. CAO Dieleman provided a verbal report for May 2026, noting that operations remained within the status quo with no significant updates to report. He further advised that the District had received the second installment of 2026 tax revenues.

8.3.2 Driftwood Article Dated June 17, 2026 Re: Isabella Trailer Fire

By general consent, the Driftwood article was received.

DRAFT

8.3.3 Driftwood Article Dated Re: June 24, 2026 Re: New Fire Hall Opening Event

By general consent, the Driftwood article was received.

8.3.4 Driftwood Article Dated July 1, 2026 Re: Pickle Ball Courts at Hall 2

There was discussion regarding the CRD's proposal to build pickle ball courts at the Fulford Fire Hall property.

By general consent, the Board of Trustees request staff to prepare a report considering future options for improvements and the best use of Fulford (Hall No. 2) Fire Hall and property.

By general consent, the Board of Trustees request staff to advise the CRD that the District is in the process of planning for improvements and the best use of the Fulford (Hall No. 2) Fire Hall property.

8.3.5 Driftwood Article Dated July 1, 2026 Re: Wildfire Preparedness

By general consent, the Driftwood article was received.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 New Fire Hall Project

9.1.1 New Fire Hall Project Update to June 30, 2026

CAO Dielman presented a verbal report and advised that the occupancy permit inspection for the new fire hall is scheduled for July 23, 2026. He noted that department operations are being transitioned to the new facility in stages. The Ganges Fire Hall building is scheduled to transfer to the Capital Regional District on August 13, 2026, following which Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue will begin occupying the building.

9.1.2 New Fire Hall Opening – September 6, 2026

Communications Committee Chair Trustee Williams reported that the new fire hall opening event is scheduled for September 6, 2026. He advised that event planning is being led by the Communications Committee in collaboration with Return on Insight President Bruce Cameron. Trustee Williams further noted that Penelakut Tribe Chief Pamela Jack will be attending the event.

9.1.3 EV Charger Opening Event

Communications Committee Chair Trustee reported that the District is awaiting confirmation from BC Hydro regarding the operations of EV chargers at the new fire hall before announcing an official opening date. While the opening is anticipated to

DRAFT

occur in mid-August, it was noted that an announcement should be deferred until the construction fencing surrounding the new hall has been removed.

9.2 2026 Town Hall Meeting Agenda – September 14, 2026

CAO Dieleman presented a draft agenda for the upcoming Town Hall meeting. He advised that the purpose of the meeting is to present the draft 2027 Budget and draft 5-Year (2026-2031) Strategic Plan and to receive public input on both documents. The Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 2026, at the new fire hall located at 455 Lower Ganges Road. The meeting will be advertised beginning three weeks prior through the Gulf Islands Driftwood, the Salt Spring Exchange, and the District's website.

By general consent, the Board of Trustees approved the draft September 14, 2026 Town Hall Meeting agenda.

10. NEW BUSINESS

10.1 Draft 5-Year (2026–2031) Strategic Plan

SPPD Committee Chair Trustee Lindstrom reported that the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee had recommended the draft 5-Year (2026-2031) Strategic Plan to the Board of Trustees. The draft 5-Year Strategic Plan will be presented at the Town Hall meeting on September 14, 2026, to provide an opportunity for public review and feedback.

2026-061

MOVED by Trustee Williams, SECONDED by Trustee Lindstrom,

That the Board of Trustees receive and recommend the draft 5-Year (2026–2031) Strategic Plan at the September 14, 2026 Town Hall meeting for the purpose of public feedback.

CARRIED

10.2 Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS)

The Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommended the Board of Trustees direct staff to prepare a public information document regarding “distance from a fire hall” insurance rates and a letter to the local insurance providers that will include that there are three pocket areas Southey Point, Isabella Point and Beaver Point, where properties are outside of the “8-km distance from a fire hall” and therefore may have higher insurance rates and that staff include an estimate of the number of homes.

2026-062

MOVED by Trustee Lindstrom, SECONDED by Trustee Williams,

That the Board of Trustees direct staff to prepare a public information document regarding “distance from a fire hall” insurance rates and a letter to the local insurance providers that will include that there are three pocket areas Southey Point, Isabella Point and Beaver Point, where properties are outside of the “8-km distance from a fire hall” and therefore may have higher insurance rates and that staff include an estimate of the number of homes.

CARRIED

DRAFT

10.3 Draft Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07 – Staff Report

A staff report regarding Draft Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07 was presented. The Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommended the Board of Trustees approve the Draft Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07.

2026-063

MOVED by Trustee Lindstrom, SECONDED by Trustee Hetherington,

That the Board of Trustees approve Draft Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07.

CARRIED

10.4 Draft Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4107-05 – Staff Report

A staff report regarding draft Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07 was presented. The Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommended the Board of Trustees approve the Draft Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07.

2026-064

MOVED by Trustee Williams, SECONDED by Trustee Hetherington,

That the Board of Trustees approve the draft Finance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4108-07.

CARRIED

11. BYLAWS – None

12. IN-CAMERA MEETING - None

13. NEXT MEETING

2026-065

MOVED by Trustee Williams, SECONDED by Trustee Hetherington,

That the Board of Trustees cancel the August 17, 2026 Board Meeting.

CARRIED

The Town Hall meeting will be held on September 14, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Hall No. 1, 455 Lower Ganges Road. The next Board of Trustees regular meeting will be held on September 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Fire Hall No. 1, 455 Lower Ganges Road.

14. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

DRAFT

Minutes of the Town Hall Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Date: September 14, 2026

Location: Training Room, Fire Hall No. 1
455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island and Electronic Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)

Members Present: Rollie Cook, Chair
Mary Lynn Hetherington, Trustee
Ron Lindstrom, Trustee
Dennis Lucarelli, Trustee
Darryl Martin, Trustee
Rob Oliver, Trustee
Robin Williams, Trustee

Staff Members Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer
Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
Hans Hazenboom, New Fire Hall Project Owners Representative
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Others Present: Approximately 6 members of the public
Gulf Islands Driftwood Reporter

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chair Cook called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is being held in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations. Chair Cook welcomed those in attendance to the first meeting in the new fire hall. Chair Cook reported the purpose of the Town Hall meeting is to receive public feedback on the draft 2027 budget and draft 5-Year Strategic Plan.

2. COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE ANNUAL (2026-2027) WORKPLAN

The draft Community Relations Committee Annual Workplan was presented in the agenda package. Community Relations Committee Chair Trustee Williams presented an overview of the Community Relations Committee Annual Workplan. Trustee Williams asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the Community Relations Committee annual workplan and there were no comments or questions.

DRAFT

2.1 SSIFPD Letter to Insurance Providers

A SSIFPD Letter to Insurance Providers entitled “Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls” was presented and copies were made available for members of the public. The SSIFPD Letter to Insurance Providers will be available on the District website.

3. DRAFT 5-YEAR (2026-2031) STRATEGIC PLAN

The draft 5-year Strategic Plan was presented in the agenda package. Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee Chair Trustee Lindstrom presented an overview of the draft 5-year Strategic Plan. Trustee Lindstrom asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the draft 5-year Strategic Plan and there were no comments or questions.

4. DRAFT 2027 BUDGET

The draft 2027 Budget was presented in the agenda package. Finance and Audit Committee Chair Trustee Oliver presented an overview of the draft 2027 budget. Trustee Oliver asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the draft 2027 Budget and there were no comments or questions.

5. NEW FIRE HALL PROJECT REVIEW

The New Fire Hall Project Review report was presented in the agenda package. Chief Holmes presented an overview of the New Fire Hall Project Review report and acknowledged Owner’s Representative Hans Hazenboom and the New Fire Hall Project Steering Committee for the stewardship of the New Fire Hall No. 1 project. Chief Holmes asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the New Fire Hall Project Review Report and there were no comments or questions.

6. COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Chair Cook welcomed members of the public to ask questions or provide comments and there were no comments or questions. Chair Cook thanked everyone for attending the town hall meeting and spoke to the Board of Trustee’s responsibility to deliver a budget that meets the needs of the department and the taxpayers. Chair Cook reported the next step is for the Finance and Audit Committee to recommend the Draft 2027 Budget to the Board of Trustees for consideration at the September 21, 2026 Regular Board Meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

DRAFT

**Minutes of the
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Communications & Marketing Committee
Special Meeting**

Meeting held: August 4, 2026
Fire Hall No. 1
455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island and Electronic Meeting
(Microsoft Teams)

Members Present: Robin Williams, Committee Chair
Rollie Cook, Board of Trustees Chair and ex-officio member
Jenny McClean, Public Member

Member Regrets: Mary Lynn Hetherington, Trustee

Staff Member Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer
Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Others Present: Return on Insight President Bruce Cameron (Teams)

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and acknowledged that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was presented for inclusion in the agenda:
5.7 Annual Appreciation Dinner

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Meeting held June 2, 2026

By general consent, the draft minutes of the Communications and Marketing Committee meeting held June 2, 2026 were adopted.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 New Fire Hall Opening

DRAFT

Return on Insight President Bruce Cameron presented a draft Official Hall Opening Event September 6, 2026 Plan. In discussion the following items were noted:

- The event timeline will likely be 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- A list of invitees to be forwarded to B. Cameron
- Estimate for 100-150 people to attend
- Will have seating for elders
- JDA will provide photos of fire hall – to be forwarded to B. Cameron
- Paid on Call members will coordinate a BBQ – hotdogs and hamburgers for 200 people
- A truck parade is not being planned as previously discussed due to logistics
- Parking will be at Country Grocer and there will be a shuttle
- May have a photographer to document the event

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07 - Staff Report – New Committee Name

5.1.1 Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference No. AG-4103-07

The draft Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference No. AG-4103-07 was presented. The SPPD Committee has recommended that the Board approve the draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference No. AG-4103-07 and it will be on the September 21, 2026 Board meeting agenda. The name of the Committee will be changed to the Community Relations Committee to align with strategic planning.

5.2 Draft Community Relations Committee 2026–2027 Annual Plan

A draft Community Relations Committee 2026–2027 Annual Work Plan was presented.

By general consent, the Communications and Marketing Committee approved the draft Community Relations Committee 2026–2027 Annual Work Plan.

MOVED by R. Cook,

That the Communications and Marketing Committee recommend the Board of Trustees request the Finance and Audit Committee to review the communications budget and allocate funds for the Community Relations Committee 2026–2027 Annual Work Plan.

CARRIED

5.3 Inter-Governance Meetings

There was discussion regarding coordinating inter-governance meetings. It was noted that Local Government elections are on October 17, 2026 and elected officials terms are delayed after the election.

DRAFT

5.4 Committee Member Engagement and Renewal

By general consent, the Communications and Marketing Committee agreed Committee Chair Williams will present the topic of “Committee Members and Trustee engagement and renewal” at the September 14, 2026 Town hall meeting.

5.5 Letter to Insurance Providers - Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls

A letter to insurance providers was presented for information.

5.6 Property Tax Insert – No Update

5.7 Annual Appreciation Dinner

CAO Dieleman reported the annual appreciation dinner is organized by staff and funded by the District. The Annual Holiday Dinner is funded and hosted by the SSI Fire Fighters Association. There was discussion regarding planning for the annual appreciation dinner and options for the District to fund the Annual Holiday Dinner.

6. NEXT MEETING

By general consent, the Communications and Marketing Committee agreed to cancel the September 1, 2026 meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Communications and Marketing Committee will be held on October 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Robin Williams
Chair, Communications and Marketing Committee

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrator

Minutes of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Finance and Audit Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting held: July 14, 2026
Fire Hall No. 1
455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: Rollie Cook, Board of Trustees Chair
Dennis Lucarelli, Trustee
John Wakefield, Public Member

Staff Members Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer

Regrets: Rob Oliver, Committee Chair
Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

CAO Dieleman called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. and acknowledged that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 9, 2026

By general consent, the minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 9, 2026 were adopted.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 2027 Draft Budget

CAO Dieleman presented the amended 2027 Draft Budget. During discussion, the Committee noted the following:

- The \$650,000 bond payment will be removed from the budget, as the Province will make this payment directly. Consideration was given to reclassifying the Fire Hall bond payment as reserve funding for Fire Halls No. 2 and 3.

- Funding for the Assistant Deputy Chief position will be advanced in accordance with the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee's succession planning recommendation.
- Additional funding will be allocated to Fire Hall No. 3 to support the Strategic Plan objective of having the project tender-ready within three years.
- Funding will be added for the redesign of Fire Hall No. 2 within the next five years.
- Funding for fuel, building utilities, and building insurance will be increased.
- The contingency allowance will be increased by 30%, or \$18,000.
- The Committee discussed transitioning to a mail-in ballot process for the next Trustee election, to be funded through \$30,000 from the elections budget and a transfer of \$15,000 from the consulting budget.
- The option of funding certain Association functions, including the Christmas dinner and training opportunities, was discussed.
- The draft budget aligns with the draft Five-Year Strategic Plan.
- Several other minor budget adjustments were discussed.
- The 2027 Draft Budget must be approved on or before the September 21, 2026 Board Meeting to meet the October 31, 2026 submission deadline.

By general consent, the Finance and Audit Committee agreed that, by applying the \$650,000 bond payment reduction, advancing the Assistant Deputy Chief position, and increasing capital funding to support the District's strategic objectives, the projected annual budget increase has been reduced to approximately 5.5% per year over the next five years. This projection includes capital investments of approximately 20% and represents a reduction from the previously proposed annual increases of 7%.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 New Fire Hall Facility Rentals – Staff Report

CAO Dieleman presented a staff report dated July 8, 2026 regarding New Fire Hall Facility Rentals. In discussion the following items were noted:

- Agreed to one set of rates for commercial and non-profit rentals
- Agreed to remove the AV fee
- Agreed that the training room is to be used for public safety and services and not private functions at this time.
- The Committee will revisit facility rentals and there will be limited rentals in 2026.

By general consent, the Finance and Audit Committee recommend the Board of Trustees approve the following rental rates effective upon opening of new Fire Hall No. 1:

- Board Room: \$20 per hour/ \$70 per half day/ \$125 per full day
- Half Training Room: \$25 per hour/ \$90 per half day/ \$170 per full day
- Full Training Room: \$40 per hour/ \$140 per half day/ \$260 per full day
- \$25 Cleaning Deposit (when required)
- \$150 Cleaning Deposit for a fully catered event (when required)

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee will be held on August 11, 2026.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Rob Oliver
Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrator

Minutes of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Finance and Audit Committee Regular Meeting

Meeting held: August 11, 2026
Fire Hall No. 1
455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: Rob Oliver, Committee Chair
Rollie Cook, Board of Trustees Chair
John Wakefield, Public Member

Staff Members Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer
Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Regrets: Dennis Lucarelli, Trustee

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and acknowledged that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 14, 2026

MOVED by J. Wakefield,

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 14, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 2027 Draft Budget

CAO Dieleman presented the updated 2027 Draft Budget. During discussion, the Committee noted the following:

- Rename "Advertising for Trustee Elections" to "Trustee Elections"
- Rename line item 15 "Advertising/Elections"

- Correct line numbers
- Increase the elections line item from \$30,000 to \$55,000 to include the cost of a mail in ballot election process
- Reduce satellite hall no. 2 line item from \$150,000 to \$125,000 with the plan to have satellite hall no. 2 to be tender ready in 2029 and that would include a draft design.
- Mobile pagers and radios are leased, and stationary radios are owned
- Potential for drone technology for wildfire prevention
- Provide the “insurance and distance from fire hall” letter as a handout for property owners at the town hall meeting.

MOVED by J. Wakefield,

The Finance and Audit Committee recommend the draft 2027 Budget be presented at the Town Hall Meeting with the following changes:

- Reduce Satellite Hall 2 line item from \$150,000 to \$125,000
- Increase the Elections line item from \$30,000 to \$55,000

CARRIED

4.1 Fire Hall No. 1 Facility Rentals

A Fire Hall No. 1 Facility Rentals rate schedule was presented.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Community Relations Committee 2026-2027 Annual Workplan

The Communications and Marketing Committee recommended the Board of Trustees request the Finance and Audit Committee to review the communications budget and allocate funds for the Community Relations Committee 2026–2027 Annual Work Plan. The draft Community Relations Committee 2026-2027 Annual Workplan was presented.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee will be held on September 15, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Rob Oliver
Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrator

DRAFT

Minutes of the
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Finance and Audit Committee
Regular Meeting

Meeting held: September 14, 2026 - Rescheduled to Follow the Town Hall Meeting
 Fire Hall No. 1, 455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island and Electronic
 Meeting (Microsoft TEAMS)

Members Present: Rob Oliver, Committee Chair
 Rollie Cook, Board of Trustees Chair
 Dennis Lucarelli, Trustee
 John Wakefield, Public Member

Staff Members Present: Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer
 Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
 Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Others Present: Darryl Martin, Trustee

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Oliver called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and acknowledged that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 11, 2026

MOVED by J. Wakefield,

That the minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 11, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 2027 Draft Budget

The draft 2027 Budget was presented in the agenda package. Chair Cook reported the draft 2027 Budget was presented at the September 14, 2026

Town Hall Meeting prior to this meeting, for public input, and there were no comments or questions received.

There was discussion regarding new building commissioning of Fire Hall No. 1, including energy conservation and operating costs. Chief Holmes advised there is \$20,000 in the draft 2027 budget for Fire Hall No. 1 operating costs. Staff are in discussions with the mechanical engineer regarding balancing the systems and optimizing the operating costs.

MOVED by R. Cook

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend the Board of Trustees approve the Draft 2027 Budget as presented.

CARRIED

5. NEW BUSINESS – None

6. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee will be held in March 2027 for the 2028 Budget preparations or at the call of the Chair.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Rob Oliver
Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrator

DRAFT

Minutes of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Joint Occupational Health and Wellness Safety Committee Regular Meeting

Date: July 29, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Fire Hall No. 1
 455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: Jamie Holmes, Co-Chair, Fire Chief (Employer Rep)
 Nancy Purssell, Co-Chair (Employee Rep Admin 2026)
 Grant Gussie, (Employee Rep POC 2026-2028)
 Abe Hohn, (Employee Rep POC 2025-2027)
 Jaden Ursua-Riding (Employee Rep Recruits 2026)
 Doug Ponsford (Employee Rep Admin 2026)

Regrets: Steve Leichter (Employee Rep POC 2025-2027)
 Ken Akerman (Employee Rep 2026)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Holmes called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Chief Holmes led a safety familiarization tour of new fire hall 1 prior to the meeting. Chief Holmes thanked the committee for their time and requested safety comments to be shared with the membership at the Hall 1 training orientation on August 4, 2026.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following item was presented for inclusion in the agenda:
 5.1 Emergency Scene Traffic Control Course

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Receive and Approve the June 24, 2026 minutes

By general consent, the draft minutes of the meeting held on June 24, 2026 were approved.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 2026 Priority List – No Update

4.2 Smoking Area New Fire Hall – No Update

DRAFT

4.3 Draft DEI-Policy-Revision-AE-2408-02 with staff report – No Update

4.4 Emergency Evacuation Plans for the new firehall – No Update

4.5 Hearing Tests – No Update

4.6 Bunker Gear in the Halls – No Update

4.7 Potable Water at Hall 2

Member Hohn noted that courier issues prevented the sample from reaching the lab. Member Hohn will take a new sample and send it to the lab for analysis.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Emergency Scene Traffic Control Course

Member Gussie noted that the Emergency Scene Traffic Control Course for members is for 2-hour traffic control at emergency scenes only. If traffic control will be needed for more than 2 hours, a qualified traffic control company must take over traffic control at the scene.

6. REVIEW OF INSPECTION REPORTS

6.1 Review of Hall Inspections

First Quarter Hall Inspections: Complete

Second Quarter Hall Inspections: Complete

Third Quarter - New Firehall 1 – A safety orientation tour at new hall 1 was completed prior to the meeting.

7. REVIEW OF FIRST AID AND ACCIDENT/INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

7.1 Review of First Aid and Accident/Incident

New investigation – Fan malfunction #SSIFR 2026-06-02 (members Leichter and Gussie) - not complete.

7.2 Appointment of Accident/Incident Investigators

Members Gussie and Hohn will be the primary investigators in August, and Member Purssell will be the alternate. Chief Holmes approved the appointments for August.

8. EDUCATION – No Update

DRAFT

9. OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Association Safety Talk

The next Association Meeting will be September 2026.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be August 26, 2026, at Hall 2, 2470 Fulford Ganges Road, at 6:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Nancy Purssell, Committee Co-Chair

Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief & Committee Co-Chair

DRAFT

**Minutes of the
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee
Regular Meeting**

Meeting held: **August 4, 2026**
 Fire Hall No. 1
 455 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: **Ron Lindstrom, Committee Chair**
 Darryl Martin, Trustee
 Rollie Cook, Board of Trustees Chair
 Keith Ballantyne, Public Member

Staff Members Present: **Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator and Financial Officer**
 Jamie Holmes, Fire Chief
 Sarah Shugar, Recorder

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and acknowledged that we live and work in the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following items were presented for consideration:

- 5.1 Correspondence - Email received from D. Courtney dated July 29, 2026
- 5.2 CRD Fulford Hall Tennis Courts

By general consent, the agenda was approved as amended.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 7, 2026

By general consent, the draft minutes of the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee regular meeting held on July 7, 2026 were adopted.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1 5-Year Strategic Plan – Update

DRAFT

CAO Dieleman presented a draft Strategic Plan Town Hall presentation and a draft 5-Year Strategic Plan (2026-2031).

- Replace “Develop Project Business Plan and Charter and financing options for Satellite Halls No. 2 and 3. Be tender ready in 2030 for construction.” With “Develop Project Business Plan and Charter and financing options for Satellite Halls No. 2 and 3. Be tender ready in 2029 for construction.”
- Add “Develop inter-agency relationships”
- Concern was expressed that there is a lack of inter-agency communications at the policy level. An example of community wildfire risk was noted. CAO Dieleman advised the draft Communications Committee Annual Workplan includes inter-agency relations and collaboration.
- Add “initiate regularly scheduled inter-governance meetings regarding fire service” in the Community Relationships and Governance section.

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommend the draft Strategic Plan Town Hall presentation and draft 5-Year Strategic Plan (2026-2031) be presented at the Town Hall Meeting for public input.

Committee Chair Lindstrom will present the Strategic Plan at the Town Hall Meeting.

4.2 New Fire Hall Planning - Rename to “New Satellite Fire Hall Planning” – No update

4.3 Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) – Chief Holmes

4.3.1 Letter to Insurance Providers - Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls

A Letter to Insurance Providers - Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls was presented.

- Replace “Continued collaboration with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and to support hydrant maintenance and the reliability of emergency water supplies.” With “Continued collaboration with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and the Capital Regional District to support hydrant maintenance and the reliability of emergency water supplies.”
- Add “Re-certification of the tender shuttle accreditation”
- The letter will be sent to the two local insurance brokers – Westland Insurance Group Ltd. and Navacord (formerly Seafirst Insurance) and added to the website.
- A general letter for property owners could include SSIFR protection and loss statistics.

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommended the Communications Committee draft a letter regarding Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls, for property owners that will be based on the letter to insurance providers.

DRAFT

4.4 Town Hall Meeting – September 14, 2026

A draft agenda was presented. It was agreed Chief Holmes will present a staff report regarding the new fire hall project at the town hall meeting. The Communications Committee will consider materials for recruitment of Committee members at the Town Hall meeting.

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee agreed to add an agenda item for Committee Member and Engagement and Renewal that would be presented by the Communications Committee Chair

4.5 SSIFPD Policy Update Project

An updated policy table was presented.

4.6 Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07 – Staff Report

4.6.1 Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07

Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07 was presented. The following items was noted:

- Replace “SSIFPD Meeting Procedures Bylaw 2025” with “SSIFPD Meeting Procedures Bylaw No. 159”

MOVED by R. Cook,

That the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommend the Board approve Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07.

CARRIED

4.6.2 Draft Community Relations Committee Annual Plan for 2026/2027

A draft Community Relations Committee Annual Plan for 2026/2027 was presented.

4.7 Administrator One Employee of Board Policy No. AG-4301-02 - Staff Report

4.7.1 Draft Administrator One Employee of Board Policy No. AG-4301-02

Draft Administrator One Employee of Board Policy No. AG-4301-02 was presented. The following items were noted:

- Add “The Board will participate in the hiring and performance reviews of the Fire Chief” to the Purpose section.
- Add a “Relationship between Trustees and Fire Chief” description to the Policy Statement section

DRAFT

- Replace “Relationship between Trustees and staff” to “Relationships between Trustees and CAO”

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee agreed the draft Administrator One Employee of Board Policy No. AG-4301-02 will be updated and brought back to the next Committee meeting for review.

4.8 Fit For Duty Policy No. AE-2405-03 - Staff Report – No Update

4.8.1 Draft Fit For Duty Policy No. AE-2405-03

4.9 Credit Card Policy No. AF-3601-03 - Staff Report

4.9.1 Draft Credit Card Policy No. AF-3601-03

Draft Credit Card Policy No. AF-3601-03 was presented. CAO Dieleman advised the policy will need more information regarding authorized users and wildfire deployments.

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee agreed the draft Administrator One Employee of Board Policy No. AG-4301-02 will be updated and brought back to the next Committee meeting for review.

4.10 Document Management Policy No. AG-5201-02 - Staff Report – No Update

4.10.1 Draft Document Management Policy No. AG-5201-02

4.11 Technology Use and Mobile Device Policy No. AG-5101-02 - Staff Report – No Update

4.11.1 Technology Use and Mobile Device Policy No. AG-5101-02

4.12 CRD Bylaw 4677 – CRD Fire Services, Operational, Fire Prevention and Administrative Bylaw and CRD Staff Report

Chief Holmes reported he met with Mike Burgess regarding fire inspections and Chief Holmes will provide inspection related policies to the Board as the fire inspections under CRD Bylaw 4677 proceed and the processes are developed.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Correspondence - Email received from D. Courtney dated July 29, 2026

CAO Dieleman presented an email from D. Courtney regarding satellite fire halls. Committee Chair Lindstrom responded to the email advising that there is a Town Hall Meeting on September 14, 2026 and the correspondence will be presented at the next Board meeting on September 21, 2026.

DRAFT

5.2 CRD Fulford Hall Tennis Courts

CAO Dieleman presented an email from CRD Parks and Recreation Manager Kent Bittorf regarding Exploration for Expanded Pickle Ball Site at Fulford Fire Hall. Staff accommodation on the Fulford Fire Hall property could be negatively impacted by pickle ball courts. A business and space plan for Fulford Fire Hall property would be needed prior to considering the request for pickle ball courts at Fulford Fire Hall.

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee recommended staff request further information from the CRD regarding the Exploration for Expanded Pickle Ball Site at Fulford Fire Hall.

6. NEXT MEETING

By general consent, the Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee agreed to cancel the September 1, 2026 meeting.

The next meeting will be held on October 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Ronald Lindstrom
Chair, Strategic Planning & Policy Development Committee

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrator

From: DG Courtney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, July 29, 2026 5:22 PM
To: Ronald Lindstrom <trusteelindstrom@saltspringfire.com>
Cc: Jamie Holmes <jholmes@saltspringfire.com>; Rodney Dieleman <rdieleman@saltspringfire.com>; Michael McCormick <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Looking Good!

Sorry, wrong address for Trustee Lindstrom. Corrected...

On Wed, Jul 29, 2026 at 17:15 DG Courtney <[REDACTED]> wrote:
 Hi Ron,

Hope you are enjoying Summer, as well as all on this thread.

For the Chief, I'm sure he's tired of answering the question - When? - Soon... :-) All is looking good, especially from 1000' in the air.

With the Commissioning of this Nice New Structure, comes the reality that Central Hall will officially become redundant within weeks. This in lieu of a potential donation of land, in the almost perfect strategic location on lower Sunset Dr and has been on the table for almost 32 months.

In the Summer of 2021 it was purported by the CRD Director in a press release, that the Search and Rescue Team would be accommodated at the New Hall. I asked John H. awhile back and he said that was the plan but the plan had changed. S & R was in the in Architectural Plans from 2013 and June 2023.

Would Central Hall prove to be an option for the CRD / Search & Rescue?

Michael M. who represents the Beddis Rd and Cushion Lake Ratepayers would like to build a rural satellite hall that meets minimum FUS requirements, jwith their own money.

I like that idea but we have 2 Gentlemen at Southey Pt that oppose the idea and feel the Community needs to look after them. That will work for them until the Underwriters cancel their Fire Insurance, over mounting Risk of Wildfire as the decade progresses. However, I don't think that day is perhaps that far off.

The CAO feels this is a plausible solution in the past. If we took the proceeds from the sale of Central Hall and split them between the Northend and Beddis Rd. Communities and allowed those Communities to build a modest Fire Hall that meets current FUS minimum requirements in each Community and then transfer Ownership on completion to the Fire District, could this be a timely solution? It would be a compromised, no frills solution to meet the minimum FUS requirements, so Ratepayers can meet the 8Km requirement imposed by FUS.

When I asked the FUS Agent (2 & 1/2 years ago) on how many Ratepayers would be within the 8Km distance of a Rural Satellite Hall on lower Sunset Dr, he came back with an answer while we were on the phone - 172 Ratepayers.

I saw the last two monthly Agenda's where the Board has asked the Chief how many Ratepayers will be impacted with the move to the New Hall for those in the Beddis Rd & Cusheon Lake Area. Micheal M. suggests ~175. I'm absolutely pleased that the Chief is campaigning FUS to suggest that City and Rural Communities differ when it comes to distances and needs.

An Official answer for those Ratepayers impacted, would be nice and appreciated.

If both of these Communities took it upon themselves to take these Projects on, is there perhaps some more Angel Donor's who would support a Rural Satellite Fire Hall in their Community? Similar to the Ladder Truck Donation by an anonymous Donor? I think it's fair to say, it's quite plausible. Finding the Land on Sunset came out of the Heavens. The fact the Board, meaning the Chair hasn't acted, is truly disappointing and embarrassing when conversing with the potential Donor.

Ron, it would nice if you could confirm 172 Ratepayers would benefit from a Rural Satellite Fire Hall on lower Sunset Dr. As well as Beddis Rd and Cusheon Lake Area.

Thank you, David.

Mobile [REDACTED]

From: Kent J Bittorf <kbittorf@crd.bc.ca>

Sent: August 11, 2026 10:00 AM

To: Rodney Dieleman <rdieleman@saltspringfire.com>

Cc: Dan Ovington <dovington@crd.bc.ca>; Spencer T Cook <scook@crd.bc.ca>; Jamie Holmes <jholmes@saltspringfire.com>; Rollie Cook <trusteecook@saltspringfire.com>; Ronald Lindstrom <trusteelindstrom@saltspringfire.com>; Sarah Shugar <sshugar@saltspringfire.com>

Subject: RE: Fulford Fire Hall - Exploration For Expanded Pickle Ball Site

Hi Rodney, and Trustees,

Thank you so much for getting back to me and for the Board's willingness to review and consider this proposal. I can appreciate you and the Trustee's have questions and require further information to evaluate the proposal and make a well-informed decision. I have attached the Fulford Pickleball Project Charter and the Conceptual Design for review to provide initial background information and hopefully address some of the questions about this project from your email.

I will also provide a high-level summary for quick review below:

- This project is aligned with the Portlock Park Master plan which requires the existing pickleball and tennis courts to be moved from this site to allow for the creation of a regulation size baseball field and development of new soccer pitch
- The proposal is to relocate and expand the pickleball facilities to the raised area behind the Fulford fire Hall, with the initial concept being the creation of six dedicated outdoor courts and the potential for future expansion
- The project is in the planning and preliminary design phase, with site layout, parking, accessibility, drainage, and service requirements to be refined. You can see in the conceptual design the parking and drainage has been identified
- Lighting is not currently included, and operating hours have not been established however, typical operating hours for outdoor park facilities is dawn to dusk
- Current phase of the project is focused on planning, approvals and preliminary design work and full project and operating costs will be developed through the subsequent design phases
- Ownership or lease arrangements, along with future operating and maintenance responsibilities remain subject to our further conversations
- The project will also require ALR and rezoning approvals before construction can proceed

With this information provided we fully recognize that your District's current and future requirements for the Fulford Fire Hall property will need to be considered as well. We look forward to an opportunity to discuss this further and to answer additional questions that you may have.

Moving forward, wondering if it may make sense to meet in August so that we can have an initial conversation, answer some questions and determine if a formal presentation at the

District Town Hall on September 14th is our next step. In terms of availability, here are some days and times that can work for our first meeting:

Monday August 17: 9:00 to 10:00 AM or 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Tuesday August 18: 9:00 to 11:00 AM or 3:00 to 4:00 PM

Friday August 20: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Let me know if any of these times work for you and your team and we can book something.

Talk to you soon.

Kent

Kent J Bittorf

Manager SSI Parks & Recreation | Salt Spring Island Administration

T: 250.538.4252 C: 780.868.7709

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [\[www.crd.ca\]www.crd.ca](#)



Capital Regional District
124 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V5

From: Rodney Dieleman <rdieleman@saltspringfire.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2026 2:33 PM

To: Kent J Bittorf <kbittorf@crd.bc.ca>

Cc: Dan Ovington <dovington@crd.bc.ca>; Spencer T Cook <scCook@crd.bc.ca>; Jamie Holmes <jholmes@saltspringfire.com>; Rollie Cook <trusteecoock@saltspringfire.com>; Ronald Lindstrom <trusteelindstrom@saltspringfire.com>; Sarah Shugar <sshugar@saltspringfire.com>

Subject: RE: Fulford Fire Hall - Exploration For Expanded Pickle Ball Site

Hi Kent,

Thank you for reaching out and for providing some background on the proposed expansion of pickleball facilities at the Fulford Fire Hall property.

The District's Planning Committee and Board of Trustees are willing to review and consider the proposal. To ensure it can be evaluated properly, it would be helpful to receive additional information outlining the proposed scope of the project, including:

- The proposed size and location of the courts;
- Site access, parking and accessibility requirements;
- Lighting and other servicing requirements;
- Proposed hours of operation;
- Anticipated project and ongoing operating costs;
- Noise and sound-attenuation measures;

- Any proposed ownership, maintenance or operating arrangements; and
- Preliminary drawings, site plans or concept designs, if available.

The Planning Committee has recently met, but any information received in advance of its September meeting would be helpful.

The timing of this discussion is appropriate, as the District's strategic plan includes the future development of the Fulford site. This may include upgrading or replacing the fire hall with a post-disaster facility and potentially providing accommodations for firefighting personnel while on duty.

Any proposed recreational use would therefore need to be considered alongside the District's current and future operational requirements.

You are also welcome to attend the District's Town Hall on September 14 to present the proposal directly to the Board of Trustees. Alternatively, arrangements could be made for you or your project team to provide a Microsoft Teams presentation to the Planning Committee at its next meeting.

While I cannot provide any assurance regarding the Board's eventual decision, we would be pleased to receive the proposal, facilitate the appropriate review process and continue the discussion.

Please feel free to suggest some meeting dates after you return from vacation, and we can arrange an initial conversation.

I look forward to speaking with you and exploring whether there may be an opportunity for a positive outcome.

Regards,

Rodney Dieleman
Chief Administrative Officer
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District



Rodney Dieleman, Chief Administrative Officer

a: Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
455 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, British Columbia
V8K 2P6

e: rdieleman@saltspringfire.com

w: www.saltspringfire.com

p: 1-250-537-2531

From: Kent J Bittorf <kbittorf@crd.bc.ca>
Sent: July 30, 2026 3:24 PM
To: Rodney Dieleman <rdieleman@saltspringfire.com>
Cc: Dan Ovington <dovington@crd.bc.ca>; Spencer T Cook <scook@crd.bc.ca>
Subject: Fulford Fire Hall - Exploration For Expanded Pickle Ball Site

Hi Rodney,

Just doing a quick virtual introduction. I am the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Manager and Dan Ovington passed me your contact information suggesting that you are the best contact to discuss the Fulford Fire Hall site in terms of exploring the potential expansion of pickleball courts on the site.

Spencer Cook, our Engineer Tech who has been working on this project had an earlier conversation the Fire Chief, Jamie Holmes, about this potential expansion to gauge his general support and willingness to explore further. Since then, you may have seen that the Local Community Commission has directed staff to explore the expansion of pickleball at this location.

A first step in this process is to re-connect with Salt Spring Island Fire Services to confirm the willingness to support this project and to discuss in more detail the process regarding an agreement. I have reached out to Fire Chief, Jamie Holmes to try to book a conversation however I can appreciate he has been quite busy with the ongoing transition to the new Fire Hall.

Can you let me know some dates and times you would be available to start this conversation? I am out of the office on vacation from July 31 to August 10, so open to some dates after I return.

Thanks, and talk to you soon.

Kent

Kent J Bittorf

Manager SSI Parks & Recreation | Salt Spring Island Administration

T: 250.538.4252 C: 780.868.7709

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | www.crd.ca



Capital Regional District
124 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V5

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Summary Financial Package

Item .3.1

For the Period Ending: June 30, 2026

These Financial Statements are DRAFT, without Audit or Annualized Adjustments

Executive Financial Summary

At June 30, 2026, the District reported total income of **\$3,148,635**, exceeding the prorated budget by **\$129,635**, or **4.3%**.

Tax revenue was on budget, with the favourable variance resulting from unbudgeted interest and miscellaneous income.

Total expenses were **\$2,635,098**, which was **\$70,152**, or **2.6%**, below the prorated budget.

Administration expenses were essentially on budget, while operating expenses were only **\$1,486** over budget. Wages and benefits were **\$135,324 below budget**, partially offsetting higher protective clothing, vehicle operating, labour relations and other operating costs.

The District recorded a surplus before capital expenses of **\$513,537**, compared with a budgeted surplus of **\$313,750**. This represents a favourable variance of **\$199,787**.

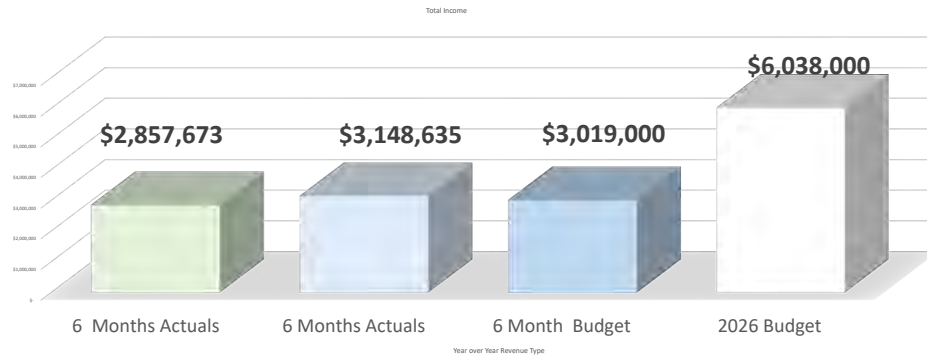
After the scheduled **\$385,000 bond principal repayment**, the District reported a surplus of **\$128,537**, compared with a budgeted deficit of **\$71,250**.

Overall, the District remains in a favourable financial position at the six-month point, although protective clothing, vehicle operating costs and selected administrative expenses should continue to be monitored.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District				
Summary Financial Package				
For the Period Ending: June 30, 2026				
These Financial Statements are DRAFT, without Audit or Annualized Adjustments				
	2025	2026		
	6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	6 Month Budget	2026 Budget
Total Income	\$ 2,857,673	\$ 3,148,635	\$ 3,019,000	\$ 6,038,000
Total Administration Expenses	\$ 118,443	\$ 408,436	\$ 408,500	\$ 538,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 250,263	\$ 339,486	\$ 338,000	\$ 601,000
Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 1,752,535	\$ 1,909,676	\$ 1,910,000	\$ 3,820,000
Ordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000
Amortization	\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
Interest - LTD & Lease (SCBA)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,228,504	\$ 2,770,098	\$ 2,705,250	\$ 5,238,000
Surplus Before Capital Expenses	\$ 629,169	\$ 378,537	\$ 313,750	\$ 800,000
Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
Total Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000	\$ 1,025,000
Capital Payments - LTD & Lease (SCBA)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Change in Working Capital	\$ 741,669	\$ 106,037	-\$ 52,500	\$ -
Executive Financial Summary At June 30, 2026, total income was \$3,148,635 , exceeding the six-month budget by \$129,635 , or 4.3% . The favourable variance was primarily due to unbudgeted interest and miscellaneous income. Total expenses were \$2,635,098 , which was \$70,152 , or 2.6% , below budget. Administration and operating expenses were essentially on budget, while wages and benefits were \$135,324 below budget . These savings were partly offset by amortization expenses exceeding the prorated budget. The District recorded a surplus before capital expenses of \$513,537 , compared with the budgeted surplus of \$313,750 , resulting in a favourable variance of \$199,787 . Following capital expenses of \$385,000 and the addition of the non-cash amortization expense, working capital increased by \$241,037 , compared with a budgeted decrease of \$52,500 . Overall, the District remains in a favourable financial position at the six-month point, with revenues above budget and overall expenditures below budget.				

Income

	2025	2026		
	6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	6 Month Budget	2026 Budget
Income				
Interest General	\$ 34,776	\$ 66,884	\$ -	\$ -
Interest CWRRF	\$ 21,515	\$ 14,353	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 7,291	\$ 48,396	\$ -	\$ -
Tax Revenue	\$ 2,794,091	\$ 3,019,002	\$ 3,019,000	\$ 6,038,000
Total Income	\$ 2,857,673	\$ 3,148,635	\$ 3,019,000	\$ 6,038,000



Executive Financial Summary – Income

At the end of six months, total income was **\$3,148,635**, exceeding the six-month budget by **\$129,635**, or **4.3%**.

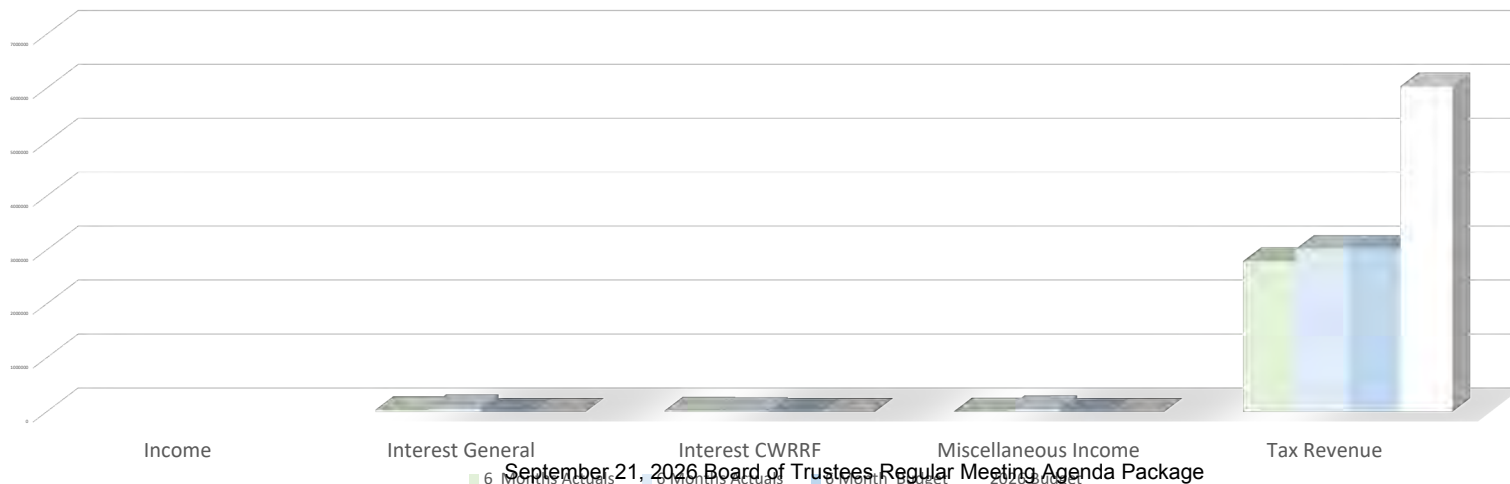
Tax revenue was essentially on budget at **\$3,019,002**.

The favourable variance was generated by unbudgeted general interest, CWRRF interest, and miscellaneous income.

General interest income of **\$66,884**

CWRRF interest income of **\$14,353**

Miscellaneous income of **\$48,396**



Administration Expenses

Line #		2025	2026		
		6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	6 Month Budget	2026 Budget
13	Advertising	\$ 7,623	\$ 3,296	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000
14	Advertising - Elections, AGM, Board Meetings and	\$ 5,496	\$ 15,333	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
15	Annual Appreciation Dinner	\$ 8,164	\$ 9,823	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
16	Audit & Related Fees	\$ 19,561	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
17	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fees/Telpay Fees/Fina	\$ 1,356	\$ 1,524	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
18	Communications - Phone	\$ 9,810	\$ 9,965	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
19	Communications & Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,500	\$ 7,000
20	Community Relations	\$ -	\$ 4,582	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
21	Conferences	\$ 2,343	\$ 6,483	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
22	Consulting Fees	\$ 4,248	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000
23	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 3,301	\$ 1,631	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
24	Fireworks	\$ 1,554	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
25	Freight/Postage	\$ 298	\$ 1,153	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
26	Insurance	\$ 9,250	\$ 29,830	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000
27	Labour Relations	\$ 27,749	\$ 24,323	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000
28	Legal	\$ 5,555	\$ 2,700	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
29	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$ 6,271	\$ 5,207	\$ 4,500	\$ 9,000
30	Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ 263,096	\$ 265,000	\$ 265,000
31	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 5,865	\$ 7,673	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000
32	Professional Development - Excluded Staff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 16,000
33	Total Administration Expenses	\$ 118,443	\$ 408,436	\$ 408,500	\$ 538,000
% of Total Expenditures		5.3%	14.7%	7.8%	10.3%

Executive Summary

Six-month administration expenses totalled **\$408,436**, compared with a six-month budget of **\$408,500**, resulting in a favourable variance of **\$64**.

The **\$263,096 bond repayment** accounts for most of the administration expenses and was slightly below budget.

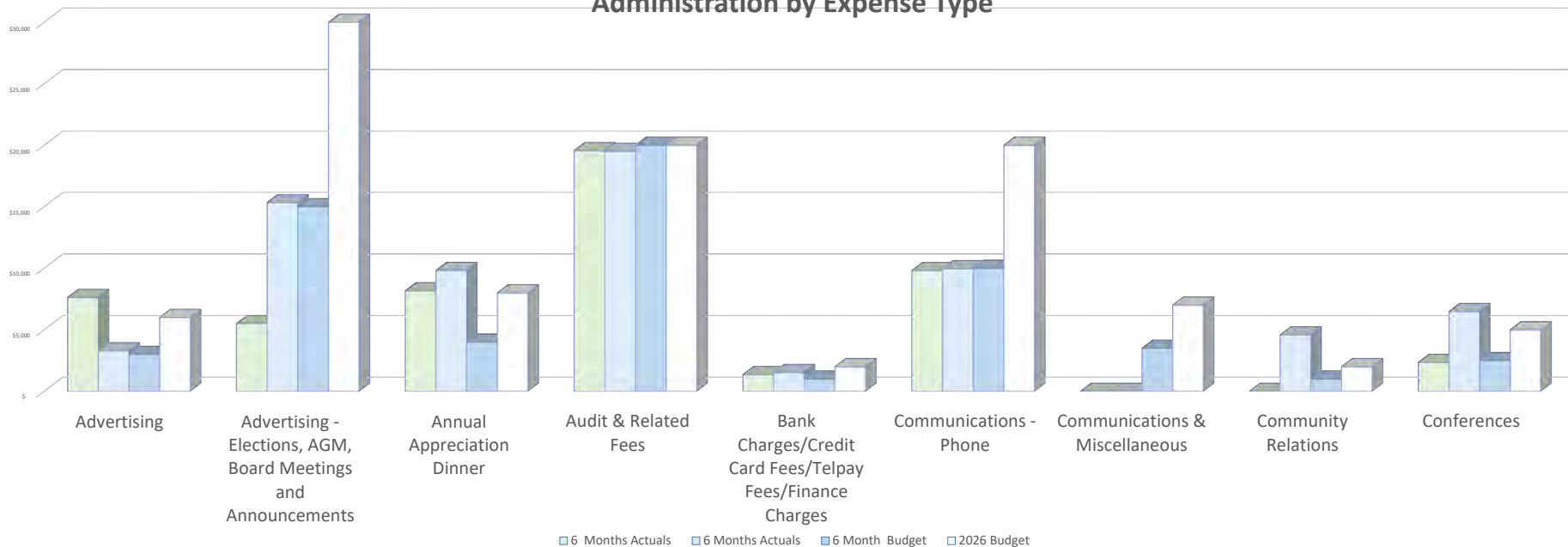
Excluding the bond repayment, administration costs were **\$145,340**, approximately **\$1,840**, or **1.3%**, over budget.

The main overages were in the annual appreciation dinner, community relations, conferences and labour relations. These were largely offset by lower spending on consulting, legal services, dues and subscriptions, fireworks, and freight and postage.

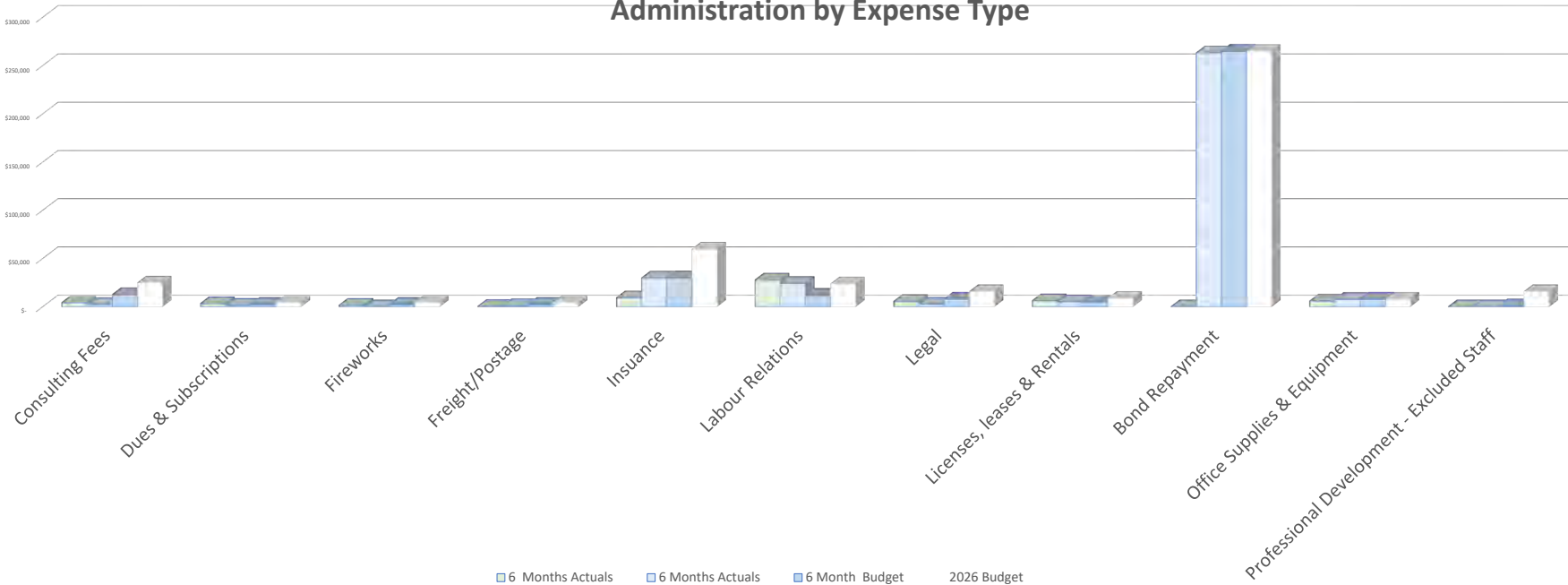
Overall, administration expenses remain effectively on budget at the six-month point.



Administration by Expense Type



Administration by Expense Type



Operating Expenses

Line #		2025	2026		
		6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	6 Month Budget	2026 Budget
40	Clothing - Career	\$ 10,217	\$ 5,418	\$ 9,000	\$ 18,000
41	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$ 928	\$ 4,730	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
42	Clothing - Protective	\$ 1,947	\$ 73,655	\$ 30,500	\$ 61,000
43	Computer, Hardware, Software & S	\$ 10,716	\$ 6,027	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
44	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$ 1,898	\$ 935	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
45	Equipment - Repair & Maintenance	\$ 611	\$ 1,769	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000
46	Equipment Purchase - Small Tools	\$ 223	\$ 4,168	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
47	Fire Department Record System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
48	Fire Prevention & Public Education	\$ 1,130	\$ 9,591	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
49	Fire Station Repair & Maintenance	\$ 11,599	\$ 5,724	\$ 24,500	\$ 49,000
50	Fire Station Utilities	\$ 20,860	\$ 21,301	\$ 20,500	\$ 41,000
51	First Responder	\$ 6,446	\$ 5,056	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
52	Foam	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
53	Health & Wellness	\$ 1,701	\$ 353	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
54	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$ 47,768	\$ 73,438	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
55	Landscaping	\$ 3,012	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
56	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
57	Paid-on-call recruitment & Retentio	\$ 67	\$ 294	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
58	Radio Equipment Repair & Supplies	\$ 28	\$ 3,318	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
59	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$ 23,014	\$ 6,314	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
60	Supplies & Sundries	\$ 4,616	\$ 6,176	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
61	Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$ 45,074	\$ 34,771	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
62	Vehicle Operating	\$ 58,408	\$ 73,449	\$ 55,000	\$ 110,000
63	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 250,263	\$ 339,486	\$ 338,000	\$ 601,000
% of Total Expenditures		11.2%	12.3%	6.5%	11.5%

Executive Financial Summary – Operating Expenses

Six-month operating expenses totalled **\$339,486**, compared with a six-month budget of **\$300,500**. This represents an unfavourable variance of **\$38,986**, or **13.0%**.

The largest variance relates to protective clothing, with expenditures of **\$73,655**, compared with a six-month budget of **\$30,500** and a full-year budget of **\$61,000**.

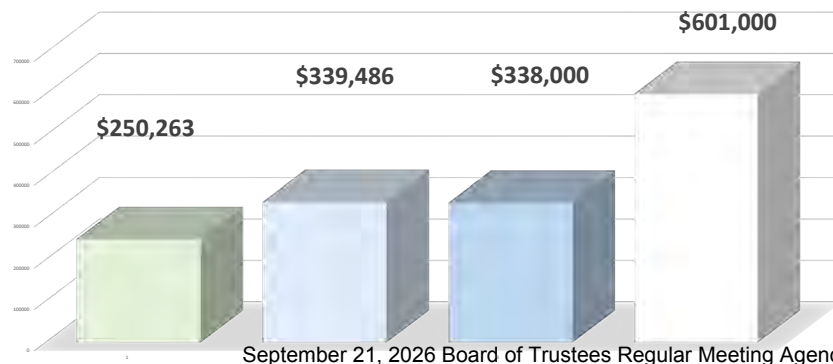
Additional overages occurred in fire prevention and public education, radio equipment, and supplies and sundries.

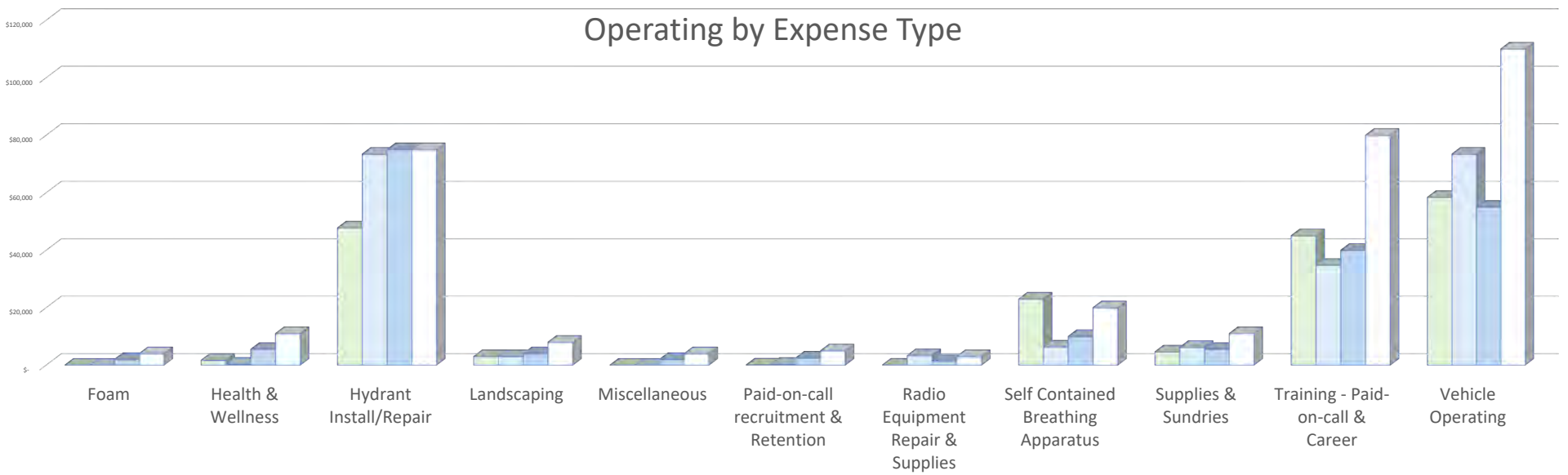
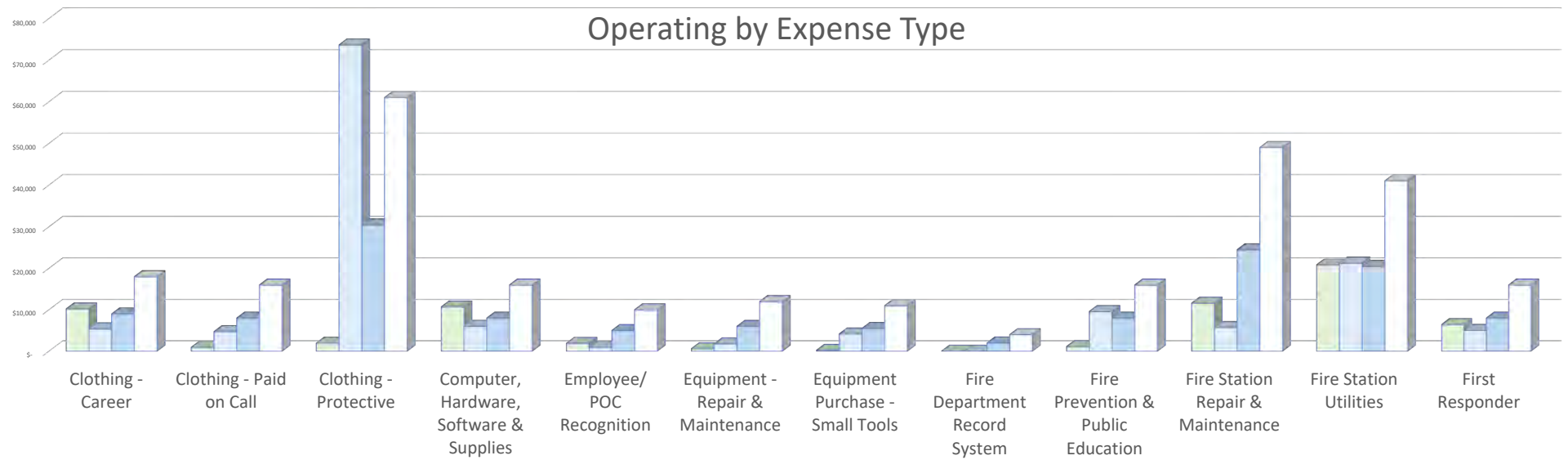
These increases were partially offset by lower spending on fire station repairs and maintenance, training, career clothing, equipment maintenance, employee recognition, health and wellness, and self-contained breathing apparatus.

Compared with the same period in 2025, operating expenses increased by **\$89,223**, primarily due to protective clothing and vehicle operating costs.

Overall, operating expenses are above budget and will require continued monitoring.

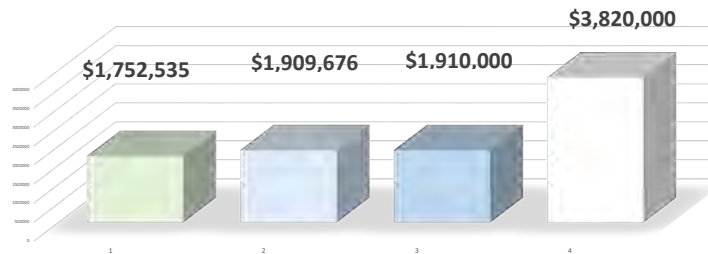
Some of the higher costs may represent expenditures incurred earlier in the year rather than recurring monthly expenses. and are annual in nature.





Wages

Line #		2025	2026		
		6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	6 Month Budget	2026 Budget
67	Wage & Related Expenses				
68	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$ 1,197,013	\$ 1,315,240	\$ 1,286,000	\$ 2,572,000
69	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$ 128,593	\$ 145,450	\$ 145,000	\$ 290,000
70	Total Wages	\$ 1,325,606	\$ 1,460,690	\$ 1,431,000	\$ 2,862,000
71	Statutory & Group Benefits				
72	Employee Allowances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
73	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$ 63,446	\$ 64,637	\$ 80,500	\$ 161,000
74	Employer CPP Expense	\$ 63,761	\$ 65,784	\$ 41,000	\$ 82,000
75	Employer EI Expense	\$ 23,850	\$ 27,281	\$ 15,500	\$ 31,000
76	Employer Health Tax	\$ 29,097	\$ 29,723	\$ 29,500	\$ 59,000
77	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension	\$ 142,314	\$ 145,450	\$ 178,000	\$ 356,000
78	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$ 2,626	\$ 2,482	\$ 25,500	\$ 51,000
79	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$ 57,163	\$ 56,674	\$ 50,500	\$ 101,000
80	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$ 30,384	\$ 39,726	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000
81	Matching RRSP	\$ 14,289	\$ 17,229	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
82	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$ 426,929	\$ 448,986	\$ 479,000	\$ 958,000
83	Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 1,752,535	\$ 1,909,676	\$ 1,910,000	\$ 3,820,000
% of Total Expenditures		78.6%	68.9%	70.6%	72.9%



Executive Financial Summary – Wages and Benefits

Six-month wages and benefits totalled **\$1,909,976** compared with a budget of **\$1,910,000**. This represents includes rate increases not yet paid.

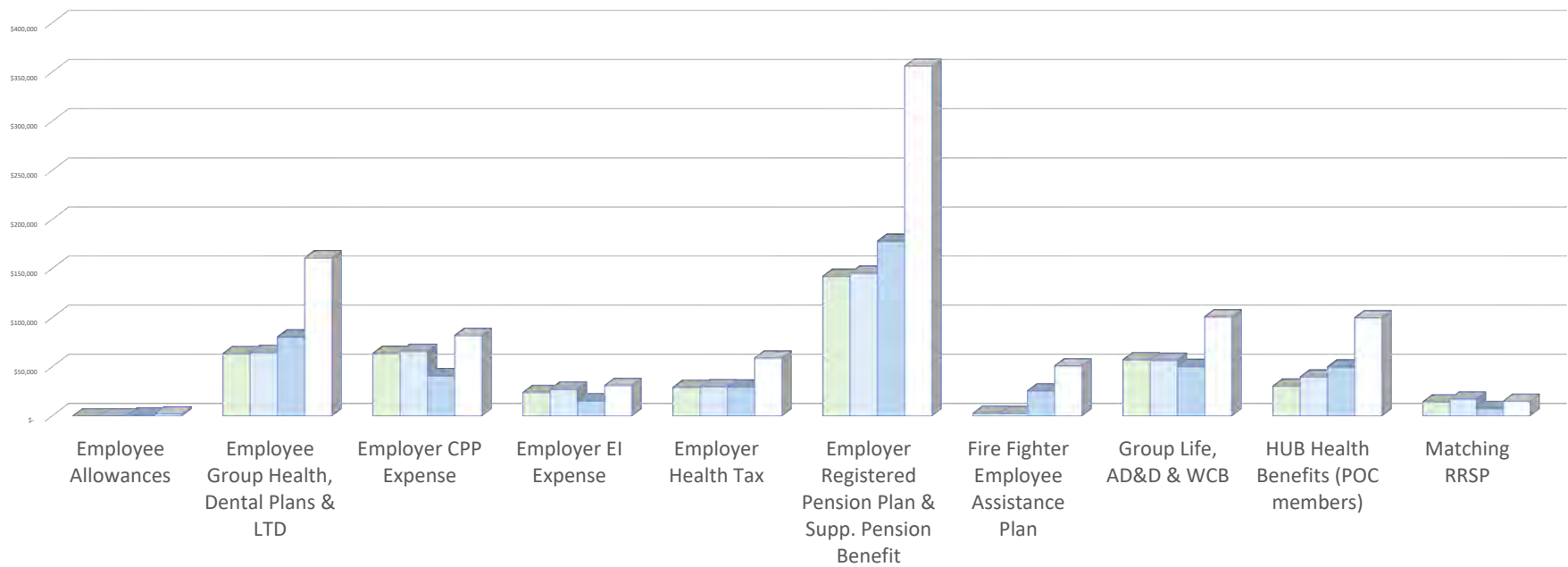
Total wages were **\$105,310 below budget**, primarily due to lower career, excluded and casual staff wages. Paid-on-call wages were essentially on budget.

Statutory and group benefit costs were **\$30,014 below budget**. Higher CPP, EI and matching RRSP expenses were offset by lower group health benefits, pension costs, employee assistance plan expenses and paid-on-call health benefits.

Compared with the same six-month period in 2025, total wages and benefits increased by **\$22,141**, or **1.3%**.

Overall, wages and benefits remain below budget at the six-month point. Some benefit costs may be affected by the timing of payments and year-end adjustments and vacancies.

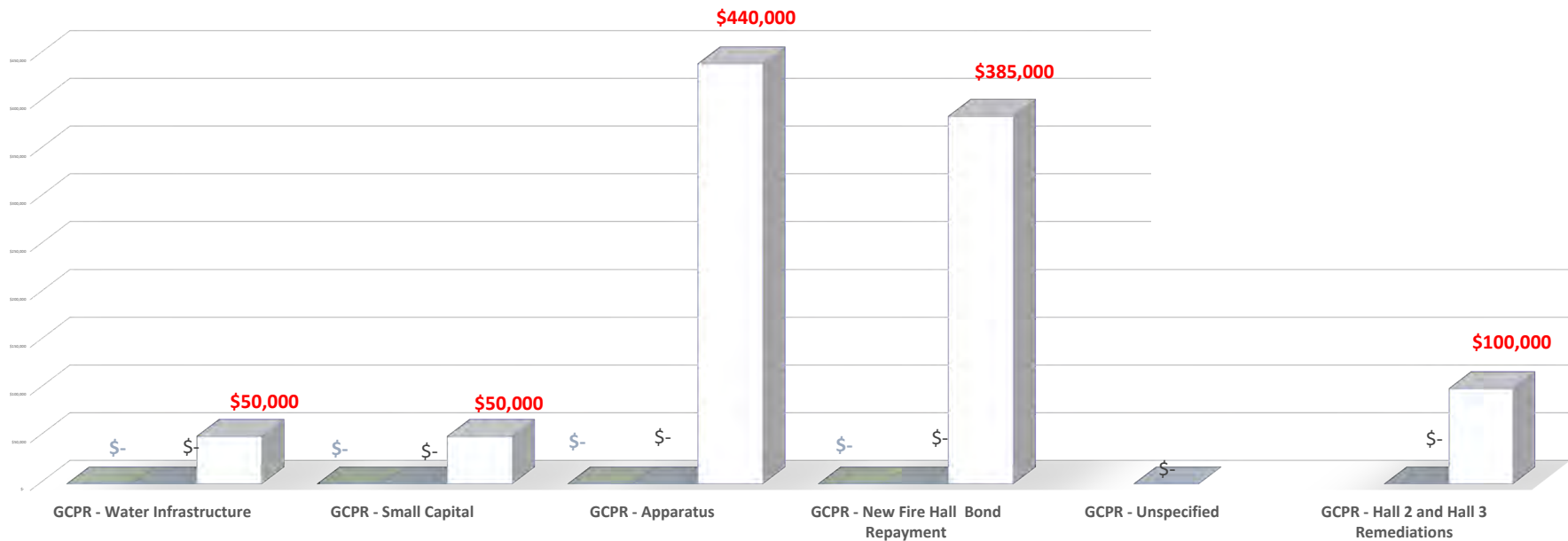
Wage Expenses by Type



Capital and Reserve Funds

	2025	2026	
	6 Months Actuals	6 Months Actuals	2026 Budget

Capital Account				
GCPR - Water Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
GCPR - Small Capital	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,000	
GCPR - Apparatus	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 440,000	
GCPR - New Fire Hall Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 385,000	
GCPR - Unspecified		\$ -		
GCPR - Hall 2 and Hall 3 Remediations		\$ -	\$ 100,000	
Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,025,000	
Principal Payments - LTD & Lease (SCBA)				
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Surplus After Capital Expenses & Principal Payments LTD				
	\$ 629,169	-\$ 6,463	-\$ 225,000	
Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500	\$ 225,000	
Change in Working Capital (Current Assets - Current Liabi	\$ 741,669	\$ 106,037	\$ -	



Reserve Funds

	2026				
	2025 Closing Balance	2026 Reserve Budget	New Midland Tender and Spartan Ladder	Closing Firehall Costs	2025 Closing Balance
Capital Account					
GCPR - Water Infrastructure	\$ 147,053	\$ 50,000		-\$ 197,053	\$ 0
GCPR - Small Capital	\$ 102,074	\$ 50,000		-\$ 152,074	\$ -
GCPR - Apparatus	\$ 720,658	\$ 440,000	-\$ 995,000		\$ 165,658
GCPR - New Fire Hall Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ 385,000			\$ 385,000
GCPR - Unspecified	\$ 75,000				\$ 75,000
GCPR - Hall 2 and Hall 3 Remediations	\$ 273,691	\$ 100,000		-\$ 373,691	\$ -
OECFR - Health and Wellness	\$ 12,219				\$ 12,219
WBRF - MMP Refund	\$ 42,981				\$ 42,981
Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds	\$ 1,373,676	\$ 1,025,000	-\$ 995,000	-\$ 722,818	\$ 680,858



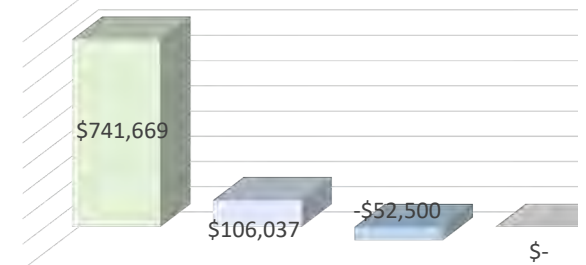
**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Financial Results (unaudited)
June 30, 2026**

**Prorate Factor
Months
0.50**

Line #		2025 Approved Actuals	2026 Approved Actuals	2026 Prorated Budget	2026 Approved Budget
		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
1					
2	Income				
3	Interest General	\$ 34,776	\$ 66,884	\$ -	\$ -
4	Interest CWRRF	\$ 21,515	\$ 14,353	\$ -	\$ -
5	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 7,291	\$ 48,396	\$ -	\$ -
6	Tax Revenue - LTD Interest			\$ -	\$ -
7	Tax Revenue- LTD Retirement			\$ -	\$ -
8	Tax Revenue	\$ 2,794,091	\$ 3,019,002	\$ 3,019,000	\$ 6,038,000
9	Total Income	\$ 2,857,673	\$ 3,148,635	\$ 3,019,000	\$ 6,038,000
10					
11	Administration Expenses				
13	Advertising	\$ 7,623	\$ 3,296	\$ 3,000	\$ 6,000
14	Advertising - Elections, AGM	\$ 5,496	\$ 15,333	\$ 15,000	\$ 30,000
15	Annual Appreciation Dinner	\$ 8,164	\$ 9,823	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
16	Audit & Related Fees	\$ 19,561	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
17	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fe	\$ 1,356	\$ 1,524	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
18	Communications - Phone	\$ 8,454	\$ 9,965	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
19	Communications & Miscellaneous			\$ 3,500	\$ 7,000
20	Community Relations	\$ 2,343	\$ 4,582	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
21	Conferences	\$ 4,248	\$ 6,483	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
22	Consulting Fees	\$ 3,301	\$ 2,317	\$ 12,500	\$ 25,000
23	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 1,554	\$ 1,631	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
24	Fireworks			\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
25	Freight/Postage	\$ 2,243	\$ 1,153	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
26	Insurance	\$ 27,749	\$ 29,830	\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000
27	Labour Relations	\$ 3,424	\$ 24,323	\$ 12,000	\$ 24,000
28	Legal	\$ 5,555	\$ 2,700	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
29	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$ 6,271	\$ 5,207	\$ 4,500	\$ 9,000
32	Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ 263,096	\$ 265,000	\$ 265,000
33	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 5,865	\$ 7,673	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
35	Professional Development -	\$ -		\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
36	Total Administration Expenses	\$ 113,206	\$ 408,436	\$ 408,500	\$ 532,000
37					
38					
39	Amortization	\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
40					
41	Clothing - Career	\$ 10,217	\$ 5,418	\$ 9,000	\$ 18,000
42	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$ 928	\$ 4,730	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
43	Clothing - Protective	\$ 1,947	\$ 73,655	\$ 30,500	\$ 61,000
44	Computer, Hardware, Softw	\$ 10,716	\$ 6,027	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
45	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$ 1,898	\$ 935	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
46	Equipment - Repair & Maint	\$ 611	\$ 1,769	\$ 6,000	\$ 12,000
47	Equipment Purchase - Small	\$ 223	\$ 4,168	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
48	Fire Department Record System			\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
49	Fire Prevention & Public Edu	\$ 1,130	\$ 9,591	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
50	Fire Station Repair & Mainte	\$ 11,599	\$ 5,724	\$ 24,500	\$ 49,000
51	Fire Station Utilities	\$ 20,860	\$ 21,301	\$ 20,500	\$ 41,000
52	First Responder	\$ 6,446	\$ 5,056	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000
53	Foam			\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
54	Health & Wellness	\$ 1,701	\$ 353	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
55	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$ 47,768	\$ 73,438	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
56	Landscaping	\$ 3,012	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 8,000
57	Miscellaneous			\$ 2,000	\$ 4,000
58	Paid-on-call recruitment & R	\$ 67	\$ 294	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,000
59	Radio Equipment Repair & S	\$ 28	\$ 3,318	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000
	Self Contained Breathing App	\$ 23,014	\$ 6,314	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
61	Supplies & Sundries	\$ 4,616	\$ 6,176	\$ 5,500	\$ 11,000
62	Training - Paid-on-call & Care	\$ 45,074	\$ 34,771	\$ 40,000	\$ 80,000
63	Vehicle Operating	\$ 58,408	\$ 73,449	\$ 75,000	\$ 150,000
+	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 250,263	\$ 339,486	\$ 338,000	\$ 601,000

**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Financial Results (unaudited)
June 30, 2026**

Line #		2025 Approved Actuals	2026 Approved Actuals	2026 Prorated Budget	2026 Approved Budget
		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
67	Wage & Related Expenses				
68	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$ 1,197,013	\$ 1,315,240	\$ 1,286,000	\$ 2,572,000
69	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$ 128,593	\$ 145,450	\$ 145,000	\$ 290,000
70	Total Wages	\$ 1,325,606	\$ 1,460,690	\$ 1,431,000	\$ 2,862,000
71	Statutory & Group Benefits				
72	Employee Allowances			\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000
73	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$ 63,446	\$ 64,637	\$ 80,500	\$ 161,000
74	Employer CPP Expense	\$ 63,761	\$ 65,784	\$ 41,000	\$ 82,000
75	Employer EI Expense	\$ 23,850	\$ 27,281	\$ 15,500	\$ 31,000
76	Employer Health Tax	\$ 29,097	\$ 29,723	\$ 29,500	\$ 59,000
77	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension Benef	\$ 142,314	\$ 145,450	\$ 178,000	\$ 356,000
78	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$ 2,626	\$ 2,482	\$ 25,500	\$ 51,000
79	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$ 57,163	\$ 56,674	\$ 50,500	\$ 101,000
80	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$ 30,384	\$ 39,726	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000
81	Matching RRSP	\$ 14,289	\$ 17,229	\$ 7,500	\$ 15,000
82	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$ 426,929	\$ 448,986	\$ 479,000	\$ 958,000
83	Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 1,752,535	\$ 1,909,676	\$ 1,910,000	\$ 3,820,000
84					
85	Extraordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$ -		\$ 30,000	\$ 60,000
86					
87	Total Expenses	\$ 2,228,504	\$ 2,770,098	\$ 2,705,250	\$ 5,238,000
88	Surplus Before Capital Expenses	\$ 629,169	\$ 378,537	\$ 313,750	\$ 800,000
89					
90	Capital Account				
93	Budget Capital Expenses Funded by Operating Funds (Water Supply)				\$ 50,000
94	Bond Principle Repayment		\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000
95	Budget Capital Expenses Funded by Reserves (Small Capital)				\$ 50,000
96	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Apparatus)				\$ 440,000
97	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (New Fire Hall Reserve)				
98	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Unspecified)				
99	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Halls 2 & 3 Remediation)				\$ 100,000
105	Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Fun	\$ -	\$ 385,000	\$ 385,000	\$ 1,025,000
106					
107	Principal Payments - LTD & Lease (SCBA)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
108	SCBA Lease payout				
109	Surplus After Capital Expenses & Principal Payments LTD	\$ 629,169	-\$ 6,463	-\$ 71,250	-\$ 225,000
110	Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$ 112,500	\$ 112,500	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
111	Change in Working Capital (Current Assets - Current Liab	\$ 741,669	\$ 106,037	-\$ 52,500	\$ -



Financial Update

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

For the 7 months ending July 31, 2026

Draft, unaudited, and without annualized adjustments

At a Glance



Total Income

\$4.29M

+\$136K above budget



Total Expenses

\$3.25M

+\$161K above budget



Surplus Before Capital

\$1.04M

Close to budget (\$1.07M)



Change in Working Capital

\$800K

+\$88K better than budget

Where Spending Is Going



Wages & Benefits

\$2.32M

+\$88K above budget



Operating Expenses

\$379K

On budget



Administration Expenses

\$424K

Slightly below budget

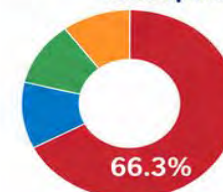


Capital Expenditures

\$374K

Scheduled bond principal repayment

Total Spending by Category



- Wages & Benefits **66.3%**
- Operating Expenses **10.9%**
- Administration Expenses **12.1%**
- Capital Expenditures **10.7%**

Wages & benefits remain the largest spending category.

Key Highlights



Revenues are modestly ahead of budget.



Surplus remains close to budget.



Strong working capital position of \$800K.



Financial results remain generally consistent with the 2026 plan.



Looking Ahead

The District remains in a solid financial position. We will continue to monitor spending and capital projects through the remainder of 2026.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Summary Financial Package

For the Period Ending: July 31, 2026

These Financial Statements are DRAFT, without Audit or Annualized Adjustments

Executive Financial Summary

The District remains in a positive financial position, with **working capital increasing by \$800,420**, approximately **\$87,500 better than budget**.

Income totalled **\$4.295 million**, approximately **\$136,000 above budget**. Property-tax revenue and the **\$636,976 capital tax advance** were on budget, while interest and miscellaneous income provided the favourable variance.

Reported expenses were **\$3.252 million**, approximately **\$161,000 above the prorated budget**.

However, this includes a **\$112,500 timing difference in non-cash amortization**. Excluding amortization, expenses were approximately **\$48,000 above budget**. Administration and operating expenses were slightly below budget.

Wages and benefits were **\$88,500 above budget**. Higher career, excluded, casual and paid-on-call wages were partially offset by benefit costs being below budget. Operating pressures included protective clothing and vehicle costs, offset by savings in station maintenance and other accounts.

The **\$373,880 bond principal payment** was made as budgeted. Staff will continue monitoring payroll and operating costs and will report any projected year-end variance to the Board.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Summary Financial Package For the Period Ending: July 31, 2026 These Financial Statements are DRAFT, without Audit or Annualized Adjustments

	2025	2026		
	7 Months Actuals	7 Months Actuals	7 Month Budget	2026 Budget

Total Income	\$ 3,363,359	\$ 4,294,788	\$ 4,159,143	\$ 6,674,976
---------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Total Administration Expenses	\$ 289,147	\$ 424,319	\$ 427,179	\$ 539,333
Total Operating Expenses		\$ 379,373	\$ 381,833	\$ 601,000
Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 2,138,028	\$ 2,316,793	\$ 2,228,333	\$ 3,820,000
Ordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,000	\$ 60,000
Amortization	\$ 131,250	\$ 131,250	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
Interest - LTD & Lease (SCBA)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 2,689,185	\$ 3,251,738	\$ 3,091,096	\$ 5,238,000

Surplus Before Capital Expenses	\$ 674,174	\$ 1,043,050	\$ 1,068,047	\$ 1,436,976
Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$ 131,250	\$ 131,250	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
Total Capital Expenses	\$ -	\$ 373,880	\$ 373,880	\$ 1,013,880
Capital Payments - LTD & Lease (SCBA)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Change in Working Capital	\$ 805,424	\$ 800,420	\$ 712,917	\$ 648,096
----------------------------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

The District remains in a stable financial position through the first seven months of 2026.

Total income was **\$4.295 million**, approximately **\$136,000 above budget**. Total expenses were **\$3.252 million**, approximately **\$161,000 above budget**. Wages and benefits were **\$88,500 above budget**, while administration and operating expenses remained slightly below budget.

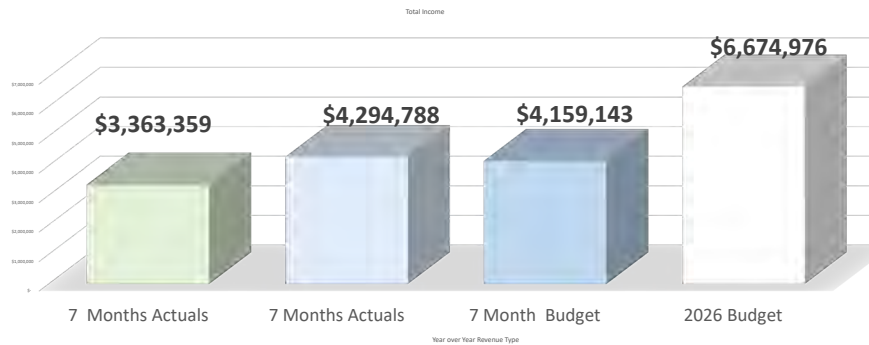
The District reported a **surplus before capital expenses of \$1.043 million**, approximately **\$25,000 below budget**. Capital spending of **\$373,880** was on budget, and working capital increased by **\$800,420**, approximately **\$87,500 above budget**.

Staff will continue monitoring payroll, operating expenses and capital commitments throughout the remainder of the year.

These financial statements are **draft and unaudited** and remain subject to year-end adjustments.

Income

	2025	2026		
	7 Months Actuals	7 Months Actuals	7 Month Budget	2026 Budget
Income				
Interest General	\$ 42,697	\$ 66,884	\$ -	\$ -
Interest CWRRF	\$ 25,517	\$ 17,560	\$ -	\$ -
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 35,373	\$ 51,199	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Tax Advance	\$ -	\$ 636,976	\$ 636,976	\$ 636,976
Tax Revenue	\$ 3,259,772	\$ 3,522,169	\$ 3,522,167	\$ 6,038,000
Total Income	\$ 3,363,359	\$ 4,294,788	\$ 4,159,143	\$ 6,674,976



Executive Financial Summary – Income

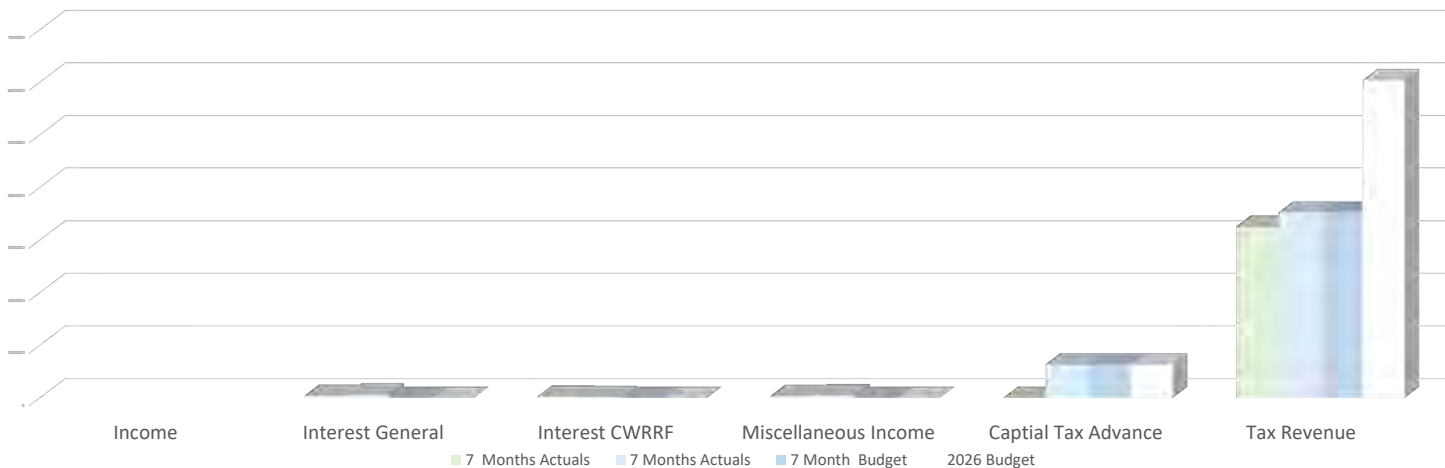
The District remains in a stable financial position through the first seven months of 2026.

Total income was **\$4.295 million**, approximately **\$136,000 above budget**.

Tax revenue and the **\$636,976 capital tax advance** were on budget. The favourable variance was primarily from unbudgeted interest and miscellaneous income.

Total expenses were **\$3.252 million**, approximately **\$161,000 above budget**. Wages and benefits were **\$88,500 above budget**, while administration and operating expenses remained slightly below budget.

The District reported a **surplus before capital expenses of \$1.043 million**, approximately **\$25,000 below budget**. Capital spending was on budget, and working capital increased by **\$800,420**.



Administration Expenses

Line #		2025	2026		
		7 Months Actuals	7 Months Actuals	7 Month Budget	2026 Budget
13	Advertising	\$ 7,682	\$ 3,355	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,000
14	Advertising - Elections, AGM, Board Meetings and	\$ 5,496	\$ 15,333	\$ 17,500	\$ 30,000
15	Annual Appreciation Dinner	\$ 8,164	\$ 9,823	\$ 4,667	\$ 8,000
16	Audit & Related Fees	\$ 19,561	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
17	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fees/Telpay Fees/Fina	\$ 1,678	\$ 1,951	\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
18	Communications - Phone	\$ 11,262	\$ 13,092	\$ 11,667	\$ 20,000
19	Communications & Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,083	\$ 7,000
20	Community Relations	\$ -	\$ 5,127	\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
21	Conferences	\$ 2,417	\$ 7,009	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
22	Consulting Fees	\$ 4,248	\$ 4,016	\$ 14,583	\$ 25,000
23	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 3,301	\$ 1,631	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
24	Fireworks	\$ 1,841	\$ -	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
25	Freight/Postage	\$ 298	\$ 1,452	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
26	Insurance	\$ 9,250	\$ 34,428	\$ 35,000	\$ 60,000
27	Labour Relations	\$ 32,374	\$ 24,323	\$ 14,000	\$ 24,000
28	Legal	\$ 5,555	\$ 5,330	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
29	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$ 7,567	\$ 5,207	\$ 5,250	\$ 9,000
30	Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ 263,096	\$ 263,096	\$ 265,000
31	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 6,430	\$ 9,646	\$ 9,333	\$ 9,333
32	Professional Development - Excluded Staff	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,167	\$ 16,000
33	Total Administration Expenses	\$ 127,123	\$ 424,319	\$ 427,179	\$ 539,333
% of Total Expenditures		4.7%	13.0%	8.2%	10.3%

Executive Summary

The District remains in a stable financial position through the first seven months of 2026.

Total income was **\$4.295 million**, approximately **\$136,000 above budget**, primarily due to unbudgeted interest and miscellaneous income. Tax revenue and the **\$636,976 capital tax advance** were on budget.

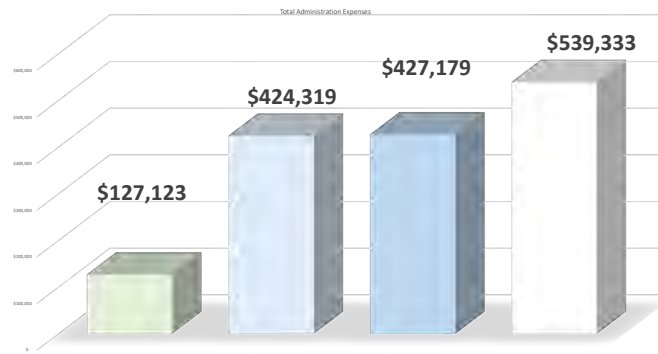
Total expenses were **\$3.252 million**, approximately **\$161,000 above budget**. Administration expenses were **\$424,319**, slightly below budget, and included the planned **\$263,096 bond repayment**.

Higher labour-relations, community-relations, conference and appreciation-event costs were offset by lower consulting, legal and other administrative expenses.

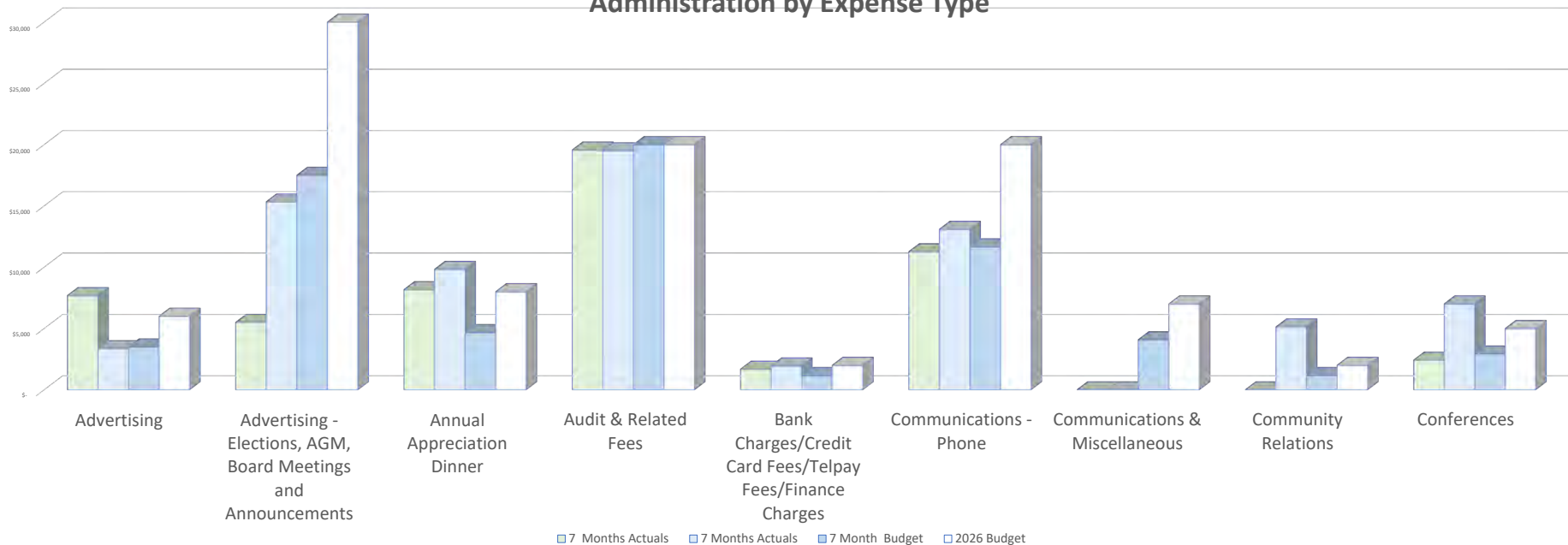
Wages and benefits were **\$88,500 above budget**, while operating expenses remained slightly below budget.

The District reported a **surplus before capital expenses of \$1.043 million** and an **increase in working capital of \$800,420**. Capital spending was on budget.

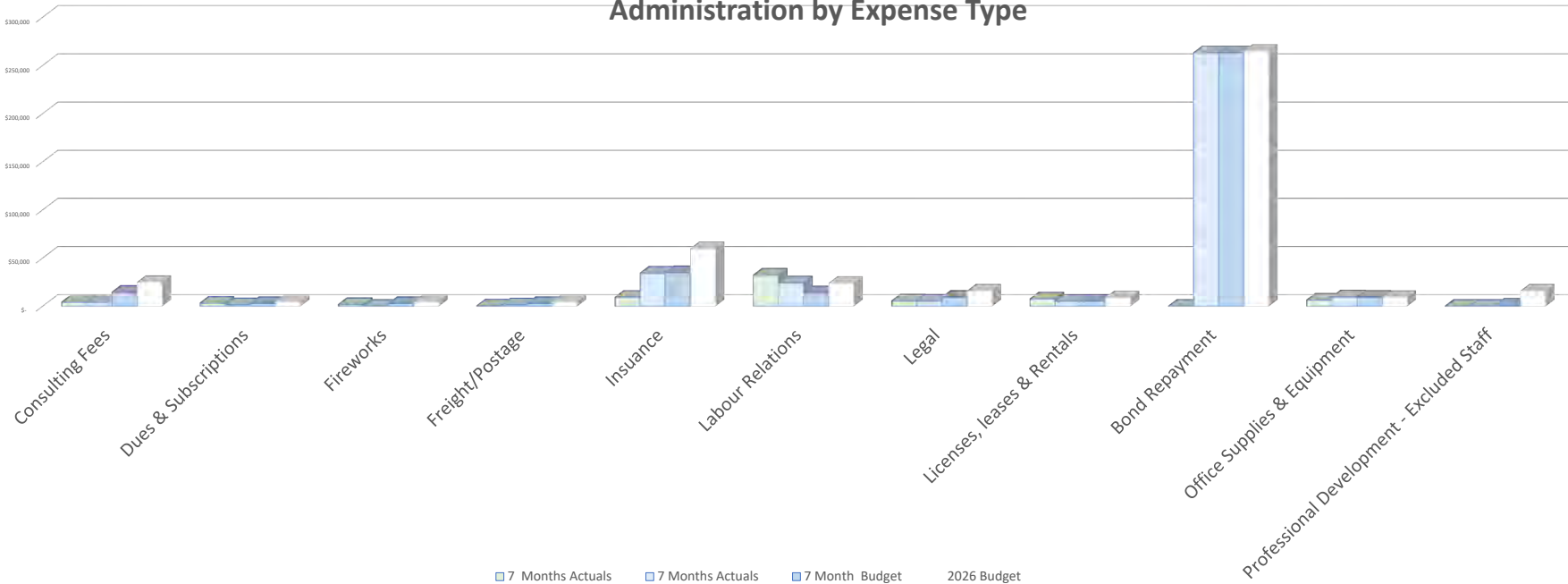
These financial statements are **draft and unaudited** and remain subject to year-end adjustments.



Administration by Expense Type



Administration by Expense Type



Operating Expenses

Line #		2025	2026		
		7 Months Actuals	7 Months Actuals	7 Month Budget	2026 Budget
40	Clothing - Career	\$ 10,217	\$ 6,274	\$ 10,500	\$ 18,000
41	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$ 2,899	\$ 4,987	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
42	Clothing - Protective	\$ 4,832	\$ 73,655	\$ 35,583	\$ 61,000
43	Computer, Hardware, Software & S	\$ 11,283	\$ 9,449	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
44	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$ 1,898	\$ 935	\$ 5,833	\$ 10,000
45	Equipment - Repair & Maintenance	\$ 806	\$ 5,656	\$ 7,000	\$ 12,000
46	Equipment Purchase - Small Tools	\$ 878	\$ 3,410	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
47	Fire Department Record System	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
48	Fire Prevention & Public Education	\$ 6,666	\$ 9,591	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
49	Fire Station Repair & Maintenance	\$ 18,229	\$ 5,906	\$ 28,583	\$ 49,000
50	Fire Station Utilities	\$ 23,292	\$ 23,689	\$ 23,917	\$ 41,000
51	First Responder	\$ 8,549	\$ 5,650	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
52	Foam	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
53	Health & Wellness	\$ 1,888	\$ 1,363	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
54	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$ 47,768	\$ 73,438	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
55	Landscaping	\$ 3,612	\$ 5,400	\$ 4,667	\$ 8,000
56	Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
57	Paid-on-call recruitment & Retentio	\$ 67	\$ 396	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
58	Radio Equipment Repair & Supplies	\$ 28	\$ 3,318	\$ 1,750	\$ 3,000
59	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	\$ 23,014	\$ 6,377	\$ 11,667	\$ 20,000
60	Supplies & Sundries	\$ 5,021	\$ 8,930	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
61	Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$ 52,545	\$ 45,211	\$ 46,667	\$ 80,000
62	Vehicle Operating	\$ 65,657	\$ 85,738	\$ 64,167	\$ 110,000
63	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 289,147	\$ 379,373	\$ 381,833	\$ 601,000
% of Total Expenditures		10.8%	11.7%	7.3%	11.5%

Executive Financial Summary – Operating Expenses

The District remains in a stable financial position through the first seven months of 2026.

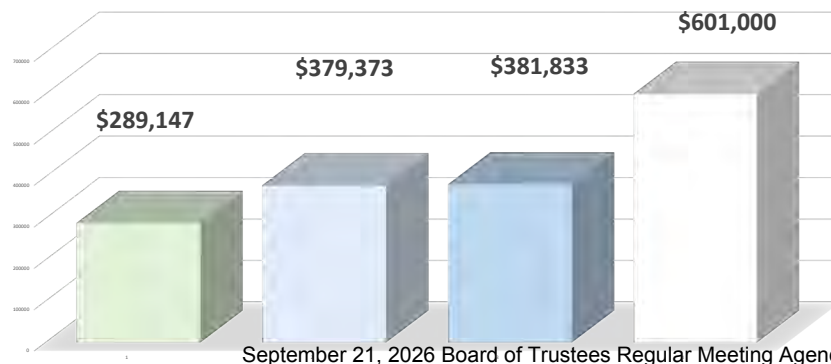
Total income was **\$4.295 million**, approximately **\$136,000 above budget**, primarily due to interest and miscellaneous income. Tax revenue and the **\$636,976 capital tax advance** were on budget.

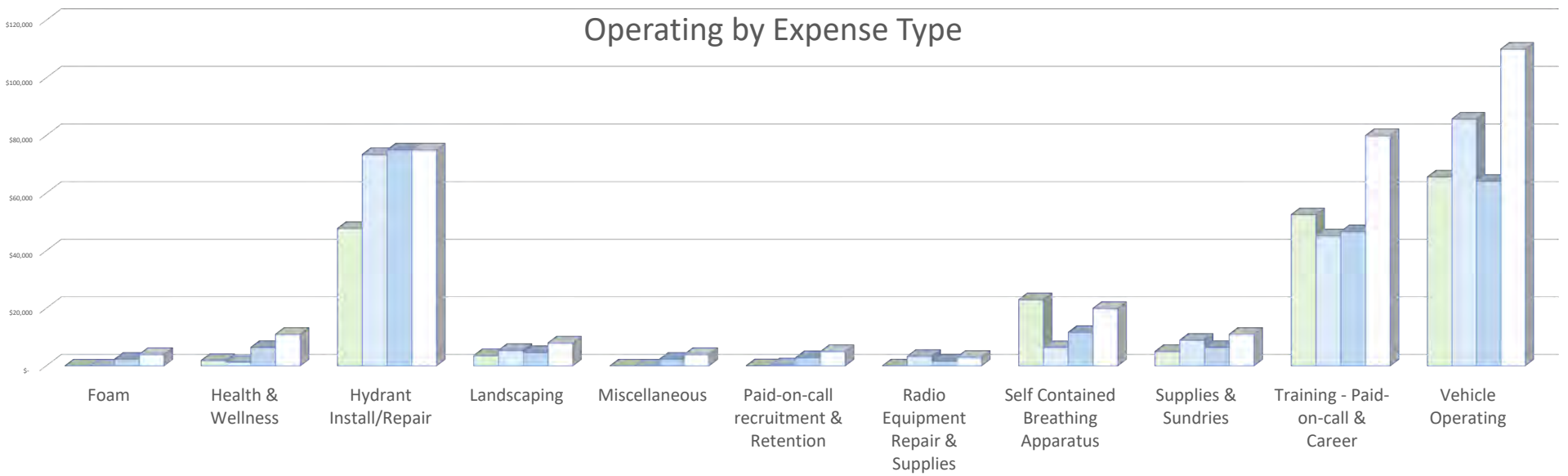
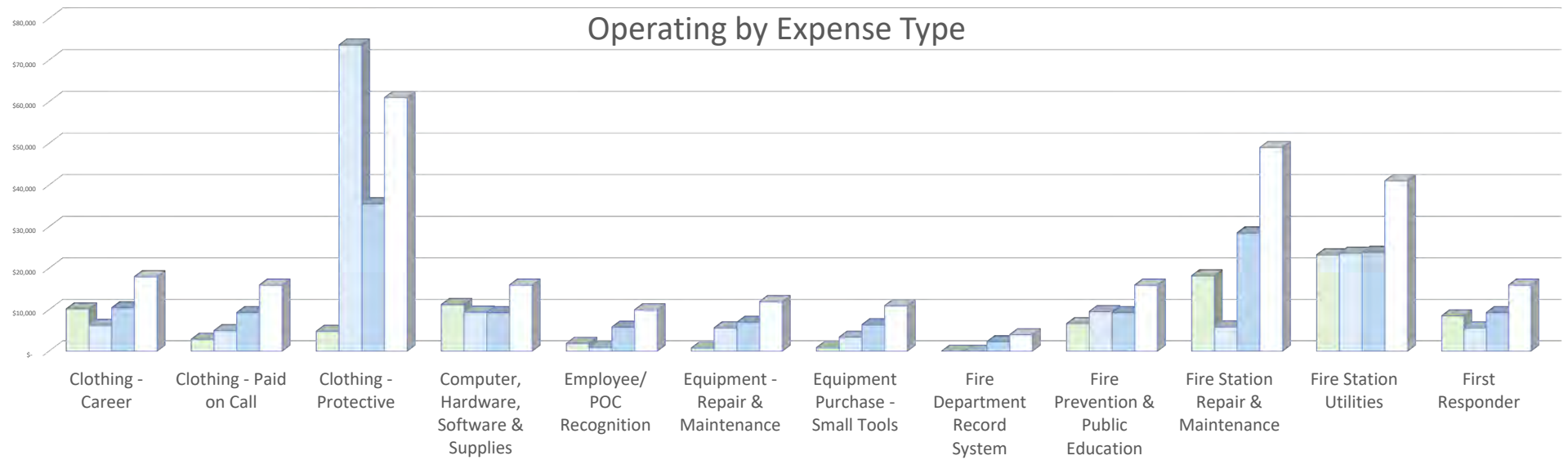
Total expenses were **\$3.252 million**, approximately **\$161,000 above budget**. Administration expenses were slightly below budget and included the planned **\$263,096 bond repayment**.

Operating expenses were **\$379,373**, approximately **\$2,500 below budget**. Higher protective-clothing and vehicle-operating costs were offset by lower station maintenance, equipment, clothing and other operating expenses.

Wages and benefits were **\$88,500 above budget**.

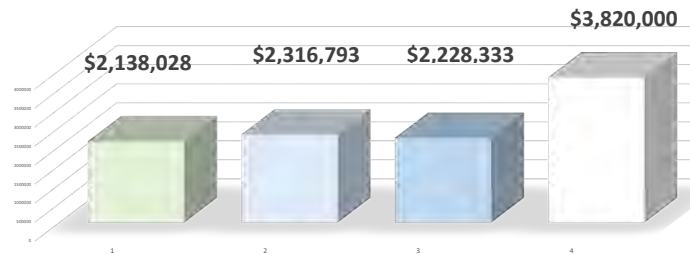
The District reported a **surplus before capital expenses of \$1.043 million** and an **increase in working capital of \$800,420**. Capital spending was on budget.





Wages

Line #		2025	2026		
		7 Months Actuals	7 Months Actuals	7 Month Budget	2026 Budget
67	Wage & Related Expenses				
68	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$ 1,468,146	\$ 1,609,191	\$ 1,500,333	\$ 2,572,000
69	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$ 151,934	\$ 176,625	\$ 169,167	\$ 290,000
70	Total Wages	\$ 1,620,079	\$ 1,785,816	\$ 1,669,500	\$ 2,862,000
71	Statutory & Group Benefits				
72	Employee Allowances	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
73	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$ 84,301	\$ 75,744	\$ 93,917	\$ 161,000
74	Employer CPP Expense	\$ 67,820	\$ 70,861	\$ 47,833	\$ 82,000
75	Employer EI Expense	\$ 24,807	\$ 29,387	\$ 18,083	\$ 31,000
76	Employer Health Tax	\$ 34,995	\$ 36,269	\$ 34,417	\$ 59,000
77	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension	\$ 173,749	\$ 179,258	\$ 207,667	\$ 356,000
78	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$ 2,626	\$ 2,482	\$ 29,750	\$ 51,000
79	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$ 77,632	\$ 75,547	\$ 58,917	\$ 101,000
80	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$ 36,500	\$ 42,879	\$ 58,333	\$ 100,000
81	Matching RRSP	\$ 15,519	\$ 18,551	\$ 8,750	\$ 15,000
82	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$ 517,949	\$ 530,977	\$ 558,833	\$ 958,000
83	Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 2,138,028	\$ 2,316,793	\$ 2,228,333	\$ 3,820,000
% of Total Expenditures		79.5%	71.2%	72.1%	72.9%



Executive Financial Summary – Wages and Benefits

Wages and benefits totalled **\$2.317 million**, approximately **\$88,500, or 4.0%, above the seven-month budget**.

The District has used **60.6% of its \$3.820 million annual budget**, with 58.3% of the year completed.

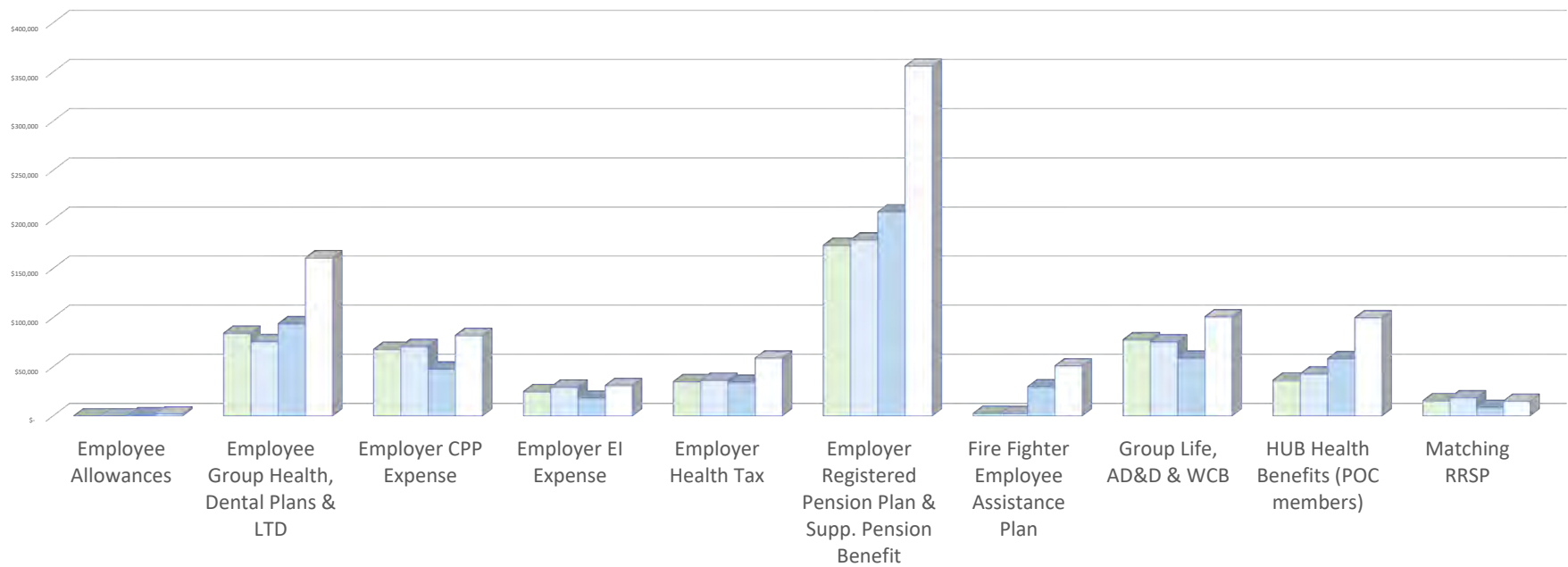
The variance is primarily attributable to wages. Career, excluded and casual wages were approximately **\$109,000 above budget**, while paid-on-call wages were approximately **\$7,500 above budget**.

These increases were partially offset by statutory and group benefits being approximately **\$28,000 below budget**.

Some benefit variances may reflect the timing of payments rather than permanent savings.

Compared with the same period in 2025, total wages and benefits increased by approximately **\$179,000, or 8.4%**.

Wage Expenses by Type



Reserve Funds

	2026				
	2025 Closing Balance	2026 Reserve Budget	New Midland Tender and Spartan Ladder	Closing Firehall Costs	2025 Closing Balance
Capital Account					
GCPR - Water Infrastructure	\$ 147,053	\$ 50,000		-\$ 197,053	\$ 0
GCPR - Small Capital	\$ 102,074	\$ 50,000		-\$ 152,074	\$ -
GCPR - Apparatus	\$ 720,658	\$ 440,000	-\$ 995,000		\$ 165,658
GCPR - New Fire Hall Bond Repayment	\$ -	\$ 385,000			\$ 385,000
GCPR - Unspecified	\$ 75,000				\$ 75,000
GCPR - Hall 2 and Hall 3 Remediations	\$ 273,691	\$ 100,000		-\$ 373,691	\$ -
OECFR - Health and Wellness	\$ 12,219				\$ 12,219
WBRF - MMP Refund	\$ 42,981				\$ 42,981
Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds	\$ 1,373,676	\$ 1,025,000	-\$ 995,000	-\$ 722,818	\$ 680,858



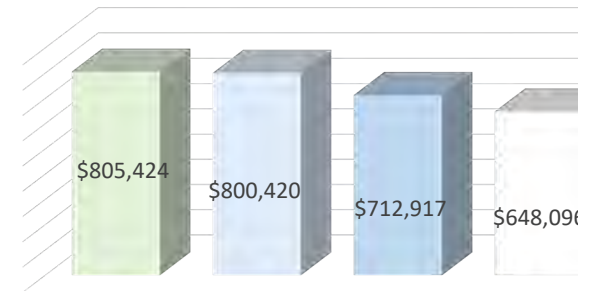
**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Financial Results (unaudited)
July 31, 2026**

**Prorate Factor
Months
0.58**

Line #		2025 Approved Actuals	2026 Approved Actuals	2026 Prorated Budget	2026 Approved Budget
		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
1					
2	Income				
3	Interest General	\$ 42,697	\$ 66,884	\$ -	\$ -
4	Interest CWRRF	\$ 25,517	\$ 17,560	\$ -	\$ -
5	Miscellaneous Income	\$ 35,373	\$ 51,199	\$ -	\$ -
6	Capital Tax Advance		\$ 636,976	\$ 636,976	\$ 636,976
7	Tax Revenue- LTD Retirement			\$ -	\$ -
8	Tax Revenue	\$ 3,259,772	\$ 3,522,169	\$ 3,522,167	\$ 6,038,000
9	Total Income	\$ 3,363,359	\$ 4,294,788	\$ 4,159,143	\$ 6,674,976
10					
11	Administration Expenses				
13	Advertising	\$ 7,682	\$ 3,355	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,000
14	Advertising - Elections, AGM	\$ 5,496	\$ 15,333	\$ 17,500	\$ 30,000
15	Annual Appreciation Dinner	\$ 8,164	\$ 9,823	\$ 4,667	\$ 8,000
16	Audit & Related Fees	\$ 19,561	\$ 19,500	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
17	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fe	\$ 1,678	\$ 1,951	\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
18	Communications - Phone	\$ 9,584	\$ 13,092	\$ 11,667	\$ 20,000
19	Communications & Miscellaneous			\$ 4,083	\$ 7,000
20	Community Relations	\$ 2,417	\$ 5,127	\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
21	Conferences	\$ 4,248	\$ 7,009	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
22	Consulting Fees	\$ 3,301	\$ 4,016	\$ 14,583	\$ 25,000
23	Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 1,841	\$ 1,631	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
24	Fireworks			\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
25	Freight/Postage	\$ 2,517	\$ 1,452	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
26	Insurance	\$ 32,374	\$ 34,428	\$ 35,000	\$ 60,000
27	Labour Relations	\$ 12,346	\$ 24,323	\$ 14,000	\$ 24,000
28	Legal	\$ 5,555	\$ 5,330	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
29	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$ 7,567	\$ 5,207	\$ 5,250	\$ 9,000
32	Bond Repayment		\$ 263,096	\$ 263,096	\$ 265,000
33	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 6,430	\$ 9,646	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
35	Professional Development -	\$ -		\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
36	Total Administration Expenses	\$ 130,761	\$ 424,319	\$ 427,179	\$ 532,000
37					
38					
39	Amortization	\$ 131,250	\$ 131,250	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
40					
41	Clothing - Career	\$ 10,217	\$ 6,274	\$ 10,500	\$ 18,000
42	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$ 2,899	\$ 4,987	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
43	Clothing - Protective	\$ 4,832	\$ 73,655	\$ 35,583	\$ 61,000
44	Computer, Hardware, Softwa	\$ 11,283	\$ 9,449	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
45	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$ 1,898	\$ 935	\$ 5,833	\$ 10,000
46	Equipment - Repair & Maint	\$ 806	\$ 5,656	\$ 7,000	\$ 12,000
47	Equipment Purchase - Small	\$ 878	\$ 3,410	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
48	Fire Department Record System			\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
49	Fire Prevention & Public Edu	\$ 6,666	\$ 9,591	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
50	Fire Station Repair & Mainte	\$ 18,229	\$ 5,906	\$ 28,583	\$ 49,000
51	Fire Station Utilities	\$ 23,292	\$ 23,689	\$ 23,917	\$ 41,000
52	First Responder	\$ 8,549	\$ 5,650	\$ 9,333	\$ 16,000
53	Foam			\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
54	Health & Wellness	\$ 1,888	\$ 1,363	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
55	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$ 47,768	\$ 73,438	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000
56	Landscaping	\$ 3,612	\$ 5,400	\$ 4,667	\$ 8,000
57	Miscellaneous			\$ 2,333	\$ 4,000
58	Paid-on-call recruitment & R	\$ 67	\$ 396	\$ 2,917	\$ 5,000
59	Radio Equipment Repair & S	\$ 28	\$ 3,318	\$ 1,750	\$ 3,000
	Self Contained Breathing App	\$ 23,014	\$ 6,377	\$ 11,667	\$ 20,000
61	Supplies & Sundries	\$ 5,021	\$ 8,930	\$ 6,417	\$ 11,000
62	Training - Paid-on-call & Care	\$ 52,545	\$ 45,211	\$ 46,667	\$ 80,000
63	Vehicle Operating	\$ 65,657	\$ 85,738	\$ 85,738	\$ 120,000
+	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 289,147	\$ 379,373	\$ 381,833	\$ 601,000

**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Financial Results (unaudited)
July 31, 2026**

Line #		2025 Approved Actuals	2026 Approved Actuals	2026 Prorated Budget	2026 Approved Budget
		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
67	Wage & Related Expenses				
68	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$ 1,468,146	\$ 1,609,191	\$ 1,500,333	\$ 2,572,000
69	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$ 151,934	\$ 176,625	\$ 169,167	\$ 290,000
70	Total Wages	\$ 1,620,079	\$ 1,785,816	\$ 1,669,500	\$ 2,862,000
71	Statutory & Group Benefits				
72	Employee Allowances			\$ 1,167	\$ 2,000
73	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$ 84,301	\$ 75,744	\$ 93,917	\$ 161,000
74	Employer CPP Expense	\$ 67,820	\$ 70,861	\$ 47,833	\$ 82,000
75	Employer EI Expense	\$ 24,807	\$ 29,387	\$ 18,083	\$ 31,000
76	Employer Health Tax	\$ 34,995	\$ 36,269	\$ 34,417	\$ 59,000
77	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension Benef	\$ 173,749	\$ 179,258	\$ 207,667	\$ 356,000
78	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$ 2,626	\$ 2,482	\$ 29,750	\$ 51,000
79	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$ 77,632	\$ 75,547	\$ 58,917	\$ 101,000
80	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$ 36,500	\$ 42,879	\$ 58,333	\$ 100,000
81	Matching RRSP	\$ 15,519	\$ 18,551	\$ 8,750	\$ 15,000
82	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$ 517,949	\$ 530,977	\$ 558,833	\$ 958,000
83	Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 2,138,028	\$ 2,316,793	\$ 2,228,333	\$ 3,820,000
84					
85	Extraordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$ -		\$ 35,000	\$ 60,000
86					
87	Total Expenses	\$ 2,689,185	\$ 3,251,738	\$ 3,091,096	\$ 5,238,000
88	Surplus Before Capital Expenses	\$ 674,174	\$ 1,043,050	\$ 1,068,047	\$ 1,436,976
89					
90	Capital Account				
93	Budget Capital Expenses Funded by Operating Funds (Water Supply)				\$ 50,000
94	Bond Principle Repayment		\$ 373,880	\$ 373,880	\$ 373,880
95	Budget Capital Expenses Funded by Reserves (Small Capital)				\$ 50,000
96	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Apparatus)				\$ 440,000
97	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (New Fire Hall Reserve)				
98	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Unspecified)				
99	Transfer to General Capital Purposes Reserve Fund (Halls 2 & 3 Remediation)				\$ 100,000
105	Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Fun	\$ -	\$ 373,880	\$ 373,880	\$ 1,013,880
106					
107	Principal Payments - LTD & Lease (SCBA)		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
108	SCBA Lease payout				
109	Surplus After Capital Expenses & Principal Payments LTD	\$ 674,174	\$ 669,170	\$ 694,167	\$ 423,096
110	Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$ 131,250	\$ 131,250	\$ 18,750	\$ 225,000
111	Change in Working Capital (Current Assets - Current Liab	\$ 805,424	\$ 800,420	\$ 712,917	\$ 648,096



SALT SPRING FIRE

Campfires banned on island

SSI fire officials following provincial prohibitions

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's on-again, off-again relationship with campfires this summer is back off, as island fire officials followed suit with the province and expanded a ban on burning that again includes campfires, effective noon Thursday, July 16.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Chief Jamie Holmes confirmed the island district would match the new prohibition on campfires across most of B.C.'s Coastal Fire Centre region — a return to tighter rules after both agencies had lifted an earlier campfire restriction put in place in May. Campfires were briefly prohibited throughout the Gulf Islands and the region between May 7 and May 15 — an early and short campfire ban period, enacted as conditions worsened and then improved rapidly.

The latest return to prohibitions on campfires comes just as the B.C. government is warning much of the prov-

ince is likely to experience elevated drought conditions that may increase water-scarcity risks. Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship Randene Neill said on July 14 the province is preparing for worsening conditions, including parts of the Vancouver Island region where record-low stream flows continue to be recorded. Ministry officials said temporary protection orders could be issued "as a last resort" if voluntary conservation measures are insufficient to restore those flows and protect vulnerable fish populations, wildlife and watersheds.

On Salt Spring, the latest campfire restriction comes at nearly the same time as the last two years, when recreational fires were banned July 17 in 2025 and July 12 in 2024. The broader notice on this year's restrictions came through the B.C. Wildfire Service, which said that apart from parts of the North Island and Sunshine Coast, all categories of open fires will be prohibited.

Campfires for the moment remain permitted in the Campbell River, North Island Central Coast, Haida Gwaii and Sunshine Coast Forest Districts.

In addition to campfires and open burning, fireworks, sky lanterns, burn

barrels or burn cages, binary exploding targets, air curtain burners, Tiki (and similar) torches and chimineas are also prohibited. This prohibition does not include the use of stoves used outdoors for "cooking, heat or ambiance," according to wildfire regulations, which burn charcoal briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, and have a flame height less than 15 cm tall.

Anyone who lights, fuels or uses an open fire when a fire prohibition is in place or fails to comply with an open fire prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$1,150 or, if convicted in court, be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be subject to a penalty of up to \$100,000 and ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs, according to the Coastal Fire Centre.

For the latest information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, visit bcwildfire.ca. The saltspringfire.com website has more local information, including a "cheat sheet" describing restrictions related to high-risk activities such as chainsawing and mechanical land clearing.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Flaggers back on Fulford-Ganges Rd.

Work not related to resurfacing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Drivers on Salt Spring's Fulford-Ganges Road south of Ganges likely had unpleasant flashbacks last week, as crews were spotted once more halting traffic on the island's busiest roadway.

But recent operations have nothing to do with the Fulford-Ganges Road improvement project that bedevilled commuters for more than a year, according to Emcon Services Inc. operations manager Andrew Gaetz.

Gaetz said their work, digging along the west side of the road surface,

was just part of Emcon's normal road maintenance programs, and was a targeted effort based on some drainage issues identified in the area over this past winter.

"The crew are completing some spot ditching in strategic locations along Fulford-Ganges Road, between Salt Spring Way and Kitchen Road," Gaetz said Wednesday, July 15. "We will have a full complement of flaggers and traffic control devices."

Traffic will be guided into a single-lane alternating pattern wherever crews are working, Gaetz said, adding that if the public could be mindful, slow down and use caution when approaching such sites, the crew is always appreciative.

Gwawis, K'ulut'a vessels will expand sailings from Vesuvius

NEW FERRIES

continued from 1

"Every new vessel entering service strengthens our ability to provide safe, reliable service for the coastal communities that depend on BC Ferries," said Ed Hooper, who heads fleet renewal at BC Ferries. "Island sarlequun reflects the progress we're making to renew our fleet with modern vessels that improve reliability today, while supporting the future electrification of our system."

Following final preparations and crew training, Island sarlequun is expected to enter service on the Nanaimo Harbour-Gabriola Island route in the coming weeks, although Island Gwawis — meaning "Raven of the Sea" in the Kwakwaka language, a name gifted by the 'Namgis

First Nation — is not planned to be redeployed to the Crofton-Vesuvius route until 2027 at the soonest, according to BC Ferries.

Part of that wait is to do with the major infrastructure upgrade taking place on the Crofton side, with a new layby berth, trestle repairs and electrical work to accommodate the two-vessel service projected to run well into next year. The other part of the wait: two-vessel service needs two vessels, and the second ferry planned to shift over to Route 6 hasn't received its replacement yet. Island K'ulut'a — its name gifted by the Wei Wai Kum and We Wai Kai Nations in the Kwakwaka language, meaning "Porpoise" — currently provides service between Campbell River and Quadra Island, and riders on that route are still awaiting the arrival of a new vessel, still known

only as "Island 9," which left Damen Shipyards in Galati, Romania just in May.

At press time, "Island 9" — soon to become Island Gwa'yam, gifted by We Wai Kai First Nation in the Kwakwaka language, meaning "whale" — had completed a refueling stop at Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands, and was en route to the Panama Canal. The trip from the Galati shipyards to Victoria is typically a two-month journey for the Island Class vessels under their own power, although the first two ferries were carried instead aboard a massive semi-submersible cargo ship. That trimmed the first voyage's duration to 45 days.

Island K'ulut'a entered service in 2023, meaning it will have four years' "experience" when it begins carrying travellers on Route 6.

HERE'S MY CARD YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS SPECIALISTS

ADVERTISED HERE CALL US TODAY!



DAVE FRENCH PEST
MANAGEMENT LTD

250-221-2549

Experience and
Integrity you can Trust

davefrenchpestmanagementltd@gmail.com



Vince Smythe

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

SMYTHE
ROOFING

Ph: 250-213-6316
Fax: 778-746-7310
info@smytheroofing.com

"Quality Workmanship - Reliable Service"



RE/MAX SALT SPRING

Tanya Stewart
Realtor®

Cell: 250-221-3396
Office: 250-537-9977 (24hrs)
saltspringrealty@gmail.com
www.TanyaStewart.ca
104-150 Fulford-Ganges Rd
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2T8

Anniversary Sale at GULF ISLAND PICTURE FRAMING

#3203 Grace Point Square
250-537-1299 • gabriellejensen@shaw.ca

25% off all wood mouldings
for the month of July!
• open monday-friday 10-4pm or by appointment

Your "clear" choice for glass.

- Auto Glass • Residential & Commercial
- Aluminum Fabrication • Custom Skylights
- Mirrors & Shower Doors
- Custom Sunrooms • Free Estimates



TROY KAYE

Kapa Kai Glass 250-653-4148

GET YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR SUMMER DRIVING

From car wash soap to battery chargers, air fresheners to stereos, tune-up parts to mag wheel sockets sets, pickup everything you need to "Ride & Shine" on the roads this season.

Bumper to Bumper® Saltspring
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE
106 JACKSON AVENUE 250-537-5507

inside:

**SALUTE
TO RCMP**

**PAGES
8 & 9**



7 Rescue Society steps up for black cat colony



11 Island potters' legacies honoured in display

Arts and Entertainment...	11
Classifieds	14
Editorial	4
Island Life	13
Letters	5
What's On	12

INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Pharnasave

GROW YOUR
COMMUNITY



Art
Supplies
20% off



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933

Wednesday,
Aug. 5, 2026

66th year
Issue 31
\$2.00



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

WHAT A DEAL: Susan Cogan, left, and Jill Tarswell display Susan's newly acquired painting by Washington artist Terry Brooks at the Salt Spring Island United Church's 10th annual Boot Sale fundraiser held in the United Church Meadow on Saturday. Susan said she liked the innocence of the painting and the fact it was only \$30. See page 6 for more event photos.

FIRE

Unattended campfires tackled

Mount Erskine call prompts safety, vigilance reminders

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An unattended campfire spotted by a hiker who just happened to step off a main trail sent firefighters racing to the summit of Mount Erskine, the latest in a string of such calls that has officials thanking most people for their vigilance — and reminding others that the comprehensive ban on burning is still in effect.

The smouldering fire inside Mount Erskine Provincial Park was discovered Tuesday, July 28, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR), and reported to 911 by a hiker who later helped guide firefighters right to it. Firefighter Josh Lindstrom said he and

several crew members carried water from the trailhead to the site of the fire, just off the main path near the highest point in the popular park.

"Luckily [the hiker] kind of stumbled across it, and they were able to call it in," said Lindstrom. "We brought up a 50-pound pack and some hand tools to overhaul the site and make sure it wasn't warm anymore. Everything is just super dry up there."

In addition to a trail system and multiple viewpoints, Mount Erskine Provincial Park supports a series of ecosystem types that have very restricted distribution on Salt Spring, according to BC Parks; all but the western-most side of the park is within the

Coastal Western Hemlock Biogeoclimatic Zone, according to that agency, and elsewhere it preserves examples of the red-listed arbutus and hairy manzanita plant community alongside other species and habitats at risk.

Under rules established by the province's 2012 management plan, no recreational fires of any kind are permitted within the park's boundaries. A complete ban on campfires in most of the Coastal Fire Centre region has been in effect since July 16, as conditions across the province have become increasingly dangerous.

SSIFR continued on 3

Subscribe to the **Gulf Islands Driftwood** today!

AVAILABLE ON
ALL PLATFORMS

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$90
includes digital
and printed copy

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$70
printed copy
only

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$45
digital
only

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
outside the
Gulf Islands
\$115
includes digital
and printed copy

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
outside
Canada
\$260
includes digital
and printed copy

Two Salt Spring members deployed to Lillooet

SSIFR
continued from 1

"I believe most members of the public are aware of the extreme wildfire conditions we are currently experiencing, particularly in our remote trail and hiking areas," said Lindstrom. "Many also know that a province-wide campfire ban is in effect. However, this recent incident suggests there is still value in reinforcing these important messages."

Fire officials confirmed that within a two-week period SSIFR had responded to two fires in Mouat Park and another at Drummond Park before the incident on Mount Erskine. Despite recent rains, the fire hazard level on Salt Spring Island at press time had returned to "extreme," and Lindstrom noted July and August are still considered "right in the middle" of fire season.

Meanwhile, responding to a request for available crew Friday, July 31, SSIFR senior firefighter Bree Sturdy and firefighter Ewan Holmes were deployed to support response to the wildfires near Lillooet, making the trek in a SSIFR tender truck. Fire officials have explained such mutual aid deployments use reserve apparatus to ensure a full complement at home.

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) officials have indicated they were unlikely to lift burning restrictions before October. As of BCWS's update Sunday, Aug. 2, so far more than 736,000 acres have burned province-wide since April 1, with 161 fires burning more than 161,000 acres just inside the Coastal Fire Centre region. Of the 17 wildfires burning in the region, eight were categorized at press time as out of control.

Through this week, conditions are expected to be hot, dry and windy, according to BCWS, increasing the potential for fire activity. Fire weather forecasters said they anticipated seeing so-called holdover fires, lightning-caused fires where heat smoulders undetected until hotter, drier and windier conditions lead to more visible smoke.

Lindstrom said SSIFR reminds people to report any signs of smoke, abandoned or recently used campfire sites or any active fire immediately — and to report any suspicious behaviour to the RCMP as soon as possible.

"Public awareness and timely reporting can make a significant difference in preventing a small fire from becoming a major wildfire," said Lindstrom.

For information on current conditions and restrictions, visit saltspringfire.com.



PHOTO COURTESY SSIFR

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue member breaks up smouldering campfire site on Mount Erskine on July 28.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees mull meeting value as budget balloons by 68%

Draft 2027/2028 budget envisions in-person meetings, conference attendance

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When they get together for the first time this December, newly elected members of the Islands Trust Council could find themselves gathering under the largest annual budget for that body's meetings in the organization's 52-year history — a function of rising expenses, according to staff, and a presumption that all 26 trustees will attend four in-person meetings.

That \$170,000 line item was advanced Wednesday, July 29, as part of the Islands Trust's Executive Committee's (EC) 2027/28 budget requests, a 68 per cent jump over last year's approved budget — if only 40 per cent over actual spending. It also comes despite some struggles with attendance, trustees admitted, during a few quarterly meetings but particularly during wide-ranging but deliberately decision-free Committee of the Whole (COW) sessions held online.

COW meetings have notoriously tallied low trustee counts, most acutely this year — often leading to cancellation from lack of quorum or simply ending prematurely, as the number of trustees still connected and participating gradually fell off. The meetings are intended to be less constrained in their discussions, meant to allow trustees to more deeply consider complicated subjects; EC vice chair and Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson suggested many trustees simply didn't see it as valuable.

"It's not a decision-making body, and therefore some trustees feel it's not as important to attend," said Peterson. "I think when there's a decision on the table, those who are interested in being part of those discussions and then voting are more likely to attend."

Peterson also noted trustees might skip the COW but then "want to have the whole discussion again" before a vote at Trust Council.

"I think it's certainly worthwhile to recommend that [the incoming] Trust Council consider some different options on how they do business," he said, joining other EC members in pondering having shorter but more frequent meetings or COW

sessions immediately preceding a regular meeting vote. Trustees have in the past rejected proposals that might reduce remuneration if a trustee missed a meeting without good reason.

Meanwhile, the \$42,500-per-meeting proposed budget for quarterly Trust Council meetings includes accommodation, catering, facility rental and travel expenses, and imagines two meetings in the Gulf Islands and two on Vancouver Island, according to staff, as well as a three per cent CPI adjustment for inflation. Last year's smaller spending package supported just three in-person meetings; a 2025 pre-budget survey found just 18.5 per cent of respondent residents supported holding all Islands Trust Council meetings face-to-face, while an Islands Trust analysis that same year put the cost of a typical virtual meeting at less than \$1,000.

In addition to the request for Trust Council meeting funding, other requests from EC for the draft budget included \$40,000 for training and conferences, \$6,000 for travel for training, \$1,000 specifically for the chair's travel, \$8,000 for the EC's meeting expenses, \$35,000 in travel costs for Local Trust Committee (LTC) chairs to attend LTC meetings in-person, \$1,500 for EC members' training and conferences and \$1,000 for travel for training.

It also included a \$33,000 placeholder for all four EC members and two staff to attend both the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities convention in Nanaimo and the annual Union of BC Municipalities gathering being held in Whistler in 2027. That latter figure also includes funding for a potential Trust-sponsored breakfast for Trust Area local government officials and MLAs — a bit of intergovernmental relationship-building trustees agreed had been valuable in the past but might present different optics held at the Hilton Whistler Resort & Spa.

Nonetheless, a motion to defer to adjust the numbers last Wednesday failed on a tie vote, and the draft was advanced as presented. EC chair and Salt Spring Island trustee Laura Patrick suggested there would be opportunities to shift the EC's budget priorities within the broader context of other budget requests in the coming months.

"And the magnitude of them," she said. "That might make us think a little differently on some of these numbers when we see the entire bottom line."

The EC meets again at the end of August. The Islands Trust Council's next meeting begins Sept. 9 — and will be held electronically.

BECAUSE YOU'RE THE Best

THE BEST OF SALT SPRING ISLAND 2026

IT'S TIME TO TELL EVERYONE! YOU HAVE A CLAIM TO FAME! PUBLISHING AUG 26

Advertising booking deadline August 13
Contact Matt or Nancy:
matt.gaudette@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road

Driftwood

Capital Regional District

CRD

Composting Facilities Regulation Bylaw Amendment Engagement Opportunity for Salt Spring Island

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is amending its Composting Facilities Regulation Bylaw No. 2736 to exempt the Salt Spring Abattoir Society from licensing requirements before fully rescinding the bylaw in the coming years.

Since the province strengthened its Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) in 2022, key requirements, including odour, pest and environmental protections, are now managed through provincial regulation.

Recognizing that the Salt Spring Abattoir Society is required to comply with OMRR, Amendment Bylaw No. 4765 removes redundant CRD licensing requirements and fees while supporting the facility's ability to accept local organic materials under provincial regulation.

Comments received will be included in materials submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Parks as part of the provincial approval process.

Share your comments from August 4 to September 13, 2026:
getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/ssi-composting

September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package

Page 62 of 126



GULF ISLANDS
SCHOOL
DISTRICT 64

It's Back to School Time!

STARTING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) is thrilled to welcome students back for the 2026/2027 school year.

OPENING DAY: Tuesday, September 8th, will be an early dismissal (regular school start time, dismissing at lunch). Full-day classes begin Wednesday, September 9th

REGISTRATION: Schools will be open for student registration and inquiries from August 31st to September 4th, 2026. (*Gulf Islands Secondary School opens August 24th.*)

Salt Spring Island Schools	Principals	Office Hours	Phone #
Fernwood Elementary School (K-7)	Marie Mullen & Shelly Johnson	9am–3pm	537-9332
Fulford Community School (K-7)	Jude Shugar	9am–3pm	653-9223
Gulf Islands Secondary School (8-12) & Phoenix Place Alternate Program	Kaz Lundgren	9am–3pm	537-9944
Salt Spring Elementary School (K-7)	Amy Dearden	9am–3pm	537-9928
64GO (online learning: K-12, adult education, graduation program)	Dan Sparanese	9am–4 pm	537-1254

Other Gulf Island Schools	Principal or Vice	Office Hours	Phone #
Galiano Community School (K-7)	Kadek Okuda (P)	9am–1pm	539-2261
Mayne Island School (K-7)	Marcus Down (VP)	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	539-2371
Pender Islands Elementary & Secondary School (K-12)	Margot Landahl (P)	9am–3pm	629-3711
Saturna Island School (K-5)	Jackie Borosa (VP)	9am–4pm	539-0811
Saturna Ecological Education Centre (10-12)	Ben Desrosiers (VP)	bdesrosiers@sd64.org	

KINDERGARTEN: To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five years old by December 31st, 2026. Please provide your child's Birth Certificate and BC Care Card during registration. The school will contact parents to arrange the entry date for the Kindergarten program.

STRONGSTART BC PROGRAMS (ELF): StrongStart Early Learning programs will be welcoming families again this year. For more information, please check with your local school.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION: School bus and student water taxi information is available on the transportation page of the SD64 website at SD64.bc.ca. For further inquiries, please email transportation@sd64.org.

SD64 MOBILE APP: Download the SD64 App (iOS or Google) to have all the information your family needs, from events to transportation delays, in one place. Stay connected with up-to-date notifications and information directly from your school, and the district, no matter where you are.

CONSERVATION

Report reveals declining area species populations

'State of the Islands' draft finds insufficient habitat protection for several species at risk

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new report highlights mounting risks to biodiversity across the Islands Trust Area, and warns that dozens of species at risk continue to be in decline despite conservation efforts.

A draft of the State of the Islands - Species at Risk report reviewed Friday, July 24 by the Trust's Regional Planning Committee identifies 30 federally listed species with mapped critical habitat, alongside many more provincially at-risk species. And while development permit areas (DPAs) across several islands provide some level of habitat protection, according to the report, nine listed species lack any specific safeguards — and in some cases, existing DPAs cover some species' habitat areas only partially.

A version headed to the next Trust Council meeting is expected to be what staff called a more "forward-facing and friendly" document — but staff noted their support for the work, which was funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada, with research and analysis done by registered professional biologist Patricia Woodruff during her time as the Islands Trust biologist. Drawing on provincial data, federal recovery documents, local monitoring and work already underway to integrate biology into land use decision-making, the findings reveal "a region under considerable pressure," according to the report.

"Numerous species at risk are experiencing population declines or local extirpations, with several critical habitats lacking land use protections," it reads. "However, the Islands Trust Area also ben-



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ISLAND CONSERVANCY

Northern red-legged frog recently photographed at the Salt Spring Island Conservancy Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. The frog is mentioned numerous times in the just-released draft State of the Islands - Species at Risk report.

efits from extensive protected lands, active conservancies and increasing integration of biological data into land use planning."

Of 70 assessed populations, according to the report, 41 are likely declining and 12 may already be extirpated — meaning the species is essentially locally extinct. Just 11 populations appear stable, with the report pointing to habitat loss, shoreline development, invasive species and climate-driven changes as the key pressures.

On Salt Spring Island, the outlook is similarly mixed. While noting the island has some of the Trust Area's strongest local conservation tools — integrated through a "robust regulatory framework" — many species still face those declining trends and partial protections. The Islands Trust Conservancy's holdings, along with multiple DPAs in Salt Spring's official community plan, help protect sensitive ecosystems, shoreline habitat and fish-bearing streams, the report noted, but as with other islands, some listed species depend on habitat areas that are only partly safeguarded.

The report also highlights

older or sparse observation records for several species on Salt Spring, noting, for example, that the Northern red-legged frog was last recorded in 2005 and the common nighthawk hasn't been documented here since 1993.

"The sharp-tailed snake has not been officially recorded on the island since 1982, and Western screech-owl records date back to 1989," according to the report. "These historical data points highlight the ongoing challenge of maintaining current information and the continued importance of applying stringent DPA standards to protect potential habitat for these vulnerable species."

The draft report advocates a collaborative approach toward future conservation efforts involving First Nations, local governments and conservation organizations. It has several recommendations, including expanding the number of DPAs, strengthening enforcement of existing ones and increasing funding for invasive species management programs. The final report will be before Trust Council at its electronic meeting set for Sept. 9-11.

Fire Hall #1 Has Moved

Mail & Deliveries Now Go To:

455 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2P6

Phone: 250-537-2531

Inquiries: info@saltspringfire.com

Please update your records.



Follow us on Bluesky!

@gi driftwood. bsky.social

STORMY NIGHT



PHOTO BY JOHN DENNISTON

Three lightning strikes captured over Vancouver Island from Channel Ridge during Saturday night's wild thunder and lightning storm that resulted in up to 25 millimetres of rain falling on the island over a several-hour period. A Channel Ridge resident also reported a lightning strike on a tree. See gulfislandsdriftwood.com for more lightning storm photos.

RV Alliance group formed

BEDDIS PARK

continued from 1

Fenton said their analysis indicated with 40 "permanent" pads and 10 available for the shorter-term, rents in the \$850- to \$900-per-month range should be able to cover the operation's bills, and service any borrowing and offset setup costs. That will include establishing an inspection system for RVs before they are allowed to settle at the park, he added, ensuring propane hookups are safe, smoke detectors, CO2 monitors and fire extinguishers are present and functional and that the RV is in generally good shape, hopefully avoiding der-

elict RV problems that can plague less-regulated sites, they added.

Fenton said they also plan to hold proactive educational seminars on "RV life" at the site, for those new to RVs or for long-timers needing a brush-up on basic maintenance like tank cleaning.

"They've also talked about having a couple of sites for RV repairs," said Burtini. "To be able to have somebody that specializes in that be there, and to even have another place to stay while they're being serviced. They really have thought of everything so far that we've been able to throw at them."

Hutt-Temoana said Habitat for Human-

ity has offered to build one of the community buildings, and Fenton confirmed the property — listed for sale at almost \$2 million since last spring — would be owned by Lookout, with legal tenancy protections for residents and no requirement for them to seek additional government subsidies.

"It's run by a charity, so it will be under-market [rents] and will stay that way," said Fenton. "When you look at rents here — one bedroom can be \$2,000 a month — this is quite affordable."

For more information about the RV Alliance and the Salt Spring proposal, visit rvalliance.ca.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees review fiscal transparency report

Big bumps in legal and office rent spending

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

New financial data from the Islands Trust points toward stable spending totals, even as payroll shifted toward higher-paid staff and supplier payments became more concentrated at the pricey end.

Trust-wide staff salaries and benefits spending was about \$5.1 million in the fiscal year ending March 31, according to the organization's Statement of Financial Information (SOFI) to be officially released later this fall. A draft

of that document, reviewed by the Trust's Financial Planning Committee Wednesday, Aug. 19, listed 31 employees with salaries above \$75,000, with about half of those earning over \$100,000. In October, Islands Trust chief administrative officer (CAO) Reuben Bronee reported the organization had 65 employees in total.

Comparisons with last year's SOFI notably show total staff remuneration and taxable benefits actually fell by \$15,674 — or 0.3 per cent — although that was driven, if counterintuitively, by a shift toward higher-paid employees. Remuneration for employees earning over \$75,000 rose seven per cent, while pay for those earning below \$75,000 fell 11 per cent. An

increase of \$216,904 among employees earning over the high-earner threshold was offset by a \$232,587 decrease in the aggregated group earning less — or, put another way, the Islands Trust's total remuneration was nearly unchanged, but compensation shifted toward higher-earning employees.

Comparing the two SOFI reports also reveals some employee turnover — six employees listed in 2025 no longer appear in the 2026 over-\$75,000 list, while five new names appear — although the tables don't indicate how much of the shift came from departures, new hires, promotions or partial-year employment, or was simply the result of raises.

The CAO's compensation was about 2.8 times the average remuneration and benefits of that upper-earning half, according to the disclosure.

Other notable revelations in the SOFI tables included the Trust's annual accounting of payments to suppliers — not necessarily contract values, but payments made in a fiscal year — which rose by \$170,513, or 3.8 per cent, from the previous year.

That increase was due to payments rising slightly in the \$25,000-or-less category, which are reported together rather than as individual suppliers — suggesting the Islands Trust likely made more and smaller payments, or just had more suppliers falling below that disclosure threshold.

Yet the top five suppliers accounted for about 60 per cent of payments, as opposed to just under 50 per cent the previous year. Legal services payments made to law firm Young Anderson rose from \$519,133 to \$766,304, a number staff indicated was not necessarily going down in the future, given the number of upcoming projects that are likely to require back-and-forth consultations with lawyers. Legislative and information services director David Marlor told trustees Wednesday that the number varies year by year, depending on what kind of court cases the Islands Trust faces.

"This number can be driven up substantially by just one or two significant cases that cost a lot more than anticipated," said Marlor, "and that's essentially what happened here."

Also on the rise were lease and facilities management payments to Victoria Islands Trust office landlord Itziar Management, from \$169,139 to \$350,811, and to information technology service provider Blackman Support Services, up from \$236,962 to \$273,013.

New gender pay gap reporting required for the first time this year under 2023's Pay Transparency Act won't be particularly revealing for the Islands Trust, according to staff, as data to determine the extent of that potential imbalance relies on employees voluntarily self-identifying their gender in the BC Public Service Agency's (PSA) human resources system. Bronee said since fewer than 10 employees from the identified gender groups provided responses, both the PSA and the Ministry of Finance's Gender Equity Office agreed it was appropriate to suppress the data this year for employee privacy purposes, and work to find new approaches for the pay transparency report next year.

The Islands Trust makes the last few years' SOFI reports available online at islandstrust.bc.ca/about-us/accountability/finance. Page 64 of 126

You're Invited!

to the official opening of our new firehall

Please join Fire Chief Jamie Holmes to help us celebrate this generational investment in the safety of Salt Spring.

Sunday, Sept 6

Noon-3 pm 455 Lower Ganges Road

BBQ + REFRESHMENTS

- OFFICIAL REMARKS AND DEDICATION
- LIVE MUSIC by The Usual Suspects
- BLESSING by Chief Jack of the Penelakut Nation

- PERFORMANCE by the Coastal Blood Singers
- GUIDED TOURS of the new facility
- PLEASE PARK at the NW end of Country Grocer and take a free shuttle to the site



LARGE CHARGE



PHOTO BY ERIN MAGLEY

Salt Spring's second – and, notably, third – high-speed electric vehicle (EV) chargers are up and running at the new fire hall, bringing a potential for 180kW charging speed at each. That output is split if two vehicles are charging at once, according to BC Hydro, which announced the new facility at 455 Lower Ganges Rd. Monday, Aug. 17. But the slower 90kW charging compromise means up to four vehicles can “juice up” at the same time – and the site features chargers equipped with CCS, NACS and CHAdeMO connectors to suit most EVs. “These new fast chargers on Salt Spring Island will provide EV drivers with greater confidence to travel and charge locally,” said BC Hydro president and CEO Charlotte Mitha, “knowing dependable infrastructure is available in their community.” The electric utility said its public charging network now includes 929 charging ports at 192 sites throughout the province; in July it announced plans to more than triple that number to 3,500 charging ports by 2035 through a \$700-million investment in larger charging hubs and faster charging technology.

SENIORS HOUSING

Cohousing meeting Sept. 8

High interest in Salt Spring project shown to date

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been almost a year since Bob MacKie and other islanders called a meeting to talk about the concept of a cohousing development for seniors on Salt Spring.

That event attracted ample interest and the Salt Spring Island Cohousing group has been busy working towards next steps. Another public meeting and potluck is set for Lions Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m., with doors open at 5:30 p.m. People attending will get a general update, hear reports from three committees and have a chance to ask questions.

Cohousing is an intentional, collaborative community model that combines completely self-contained private homes with collectively owned shared facilities. MacKie said more than 13 cohousing projects have been completed across Canada and dozens more are in progress.

MacKie said the 13-member property committee chaired by Steve Coopman has identified eight properties for sale and another nine of interest, with most being in or near Ganges.

“We’re coming in with a lot of people, which conceivably could be a lot of money, so we’re looking at properties that are listed and also stuff that’s just of interest,” said MacKie.

There’s also a 16-member design committee chaired by MacKie, and a governance committee with eight members headed by Brian Hayward.

The Salt Spring vision to date sees small — 700-

to 900-square-foot — individually owned homes, each with its own small lot, plus a common building of at least 20,000 square feet, and areas for possible non-market or subsidized housing in a strata plan.

“The common building could contain a large kitchen and dining area for shared meals, laundry facilities, flex space for a variety of activities, and accommodation for guests or caregivers as needed,” explains a vision statement for the project.

Some 118 seniors have indicated an interest in being potential purchasers, and memberships are now available, with two options offered. Full membership costs \$500 (non-refundable), which allows each person or couple to choose a lot in the order that they became members. An associate membership is \$100 (also non-refundable), but must be upgraded to a full membership in order to choose a property.

Two full and five associate members are currently registered, said MacKie last week.

Salt Spring’s group is using the tried-and-true approach laid out by Margaret Critchlow, who literally wrote the book on cohousing — *Community Led Housing: A Cohousing Development Approach* — along with Ronaye Matthew. Critchlow sparked initial interest in the local project when she spoke to islanders about 10 years ago.

Cohousing group member Fran McIninch is even holding book club sessions for people who want to read Critchlow and Matthew’s book and really understand the process and what’s involved.

“When you read that book, you realize this is not just a small thing. It’s a big deal and there are lots and lots of steps,” said MacKie.

For more information about how to become a member, email SSICohousing@gmail.com.

Crucial for ALC to see strong support: Patrick

BRINKWORTHY

continued from 1

“The fact that they didn’t quite have enough information was a product of us never having that opportunity [to meet with them], and I would note that it would be great to still have that opportunity,” said Grant.

“I think it’s worth more time and thought to see what can happen with [the project],” he continued. “We were looking forward to sitting down with the ag committee and really talking about this. If there are concerns about pulling too much property out of the ag designation, what’s the sweet spot? How much? What can work? What is the win-win that could actually work? And just see if it’s viable.”

Grant said the property is “too strategic and, I think, well-placed in the community to not put good thought into it.”

A Trust staff report also recommended against sup-

porting an ALR exclusion, suggesting that a full assessment of the best use of ALR land in and around island villages be undertaken rather than approving ad hoc exclusion requests.

The report noted the proposal is consistent with the Residential 3 portion of its zoning, permitting up to 20 dwelling units per hectare if sewage service is provided. ICS had at one point suggested up to 35 units could be built. The land is located next to the Brinkworthy Place modular home park.

Trustee Laura Patrick stressed that the ALC would not approve an exclusion request without strong support from the LTC, which could not be provided if the AAPC felt agriculture would be negatively impacted. She and fellow LTC member Tim Peterson agreed to refer the application back to the AAPC, with a chance for ICS reps to meet with commission members to make their case in person.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Composting Facilities Regulation Bylaw Amendment Engagement Opportunity for Salt Spring Island

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is amending its Composting Facilities Regulation Bylaw No. 2736 to exempt the Salt Spring Abattoir Society from licensing requirements before fully rescinding the bylaw in the coming years.

Since the province strengthened its Organic Matter Recycling Regulation (OMRR) in 2022, key requirements, including odour, pest and environmental protections, are now managed through provincial regulation.

Recognizing that the Salt Spring Abattoir Society is required to comply with OMRR, Amendment Bylaw No. 4765 removes redundant CRD licensing requirements and fees while supporting the facility’s ability to accept local organic materials under provincial regulation.

Comments received will be included in materials submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Parks as part of the provincial approval process.

Share your comments from August 4 to September 13, 2026: getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/ssi-composting

TIDINGS

Your Driftwood
community newsletter

Free in your inbox | News on the Go
Every Wednesday

52

CHANCES TO
SPONSOR A WEEK!
JUST \$245

CONTACT US TODAY

Matt Gaudette: matt.gaudette@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
Nancy Johnson: nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Driftwood



inside:



9 Fall Fair aims to be 'No Waste Event'



8 Rejuvenated folk club launches full season

Arts and Entertainment.....	7
Classifieds.....	10
Editorial	4
Island Life	9
Letters.....	5
What's On.....	8

INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Lifestyle Markets
- Home Hardware
- Pharmasave



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Sept. 9, 2026

66th year
Issue 36
\$2.00

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933

EMERGENCY SERVICES

New island fire hall celebrated



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

As hundreds of islanders sing "O Canada," Salt Spring firefighter Josh Lindstrom and Capt. Gord Fraser raise the Canadian flag for the first time at the island's new Fire Hall No. 1 Sunday, Sept. 6, marking the official opening of the new \$13.62-million facility. See page 6 for more photos from the event.

Community packs facility for ceremony, party marking completion

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Hundreds turned out to celebrate at an opening ceremony for Salt Spring's new Fire Hall No. 1 on Sunday, Sept. 6, showcasing a major upgrade for emergency services and marking what officials called a new chapter in the island's firefighting history.

Fire district voters approved \$9.7-million borrowing for the new fire hall in 2022, launching a \$13.7-million construction effort that broke ground in October 2023 — but, as Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Chief Jamie Holmes noted in his remarks, the effort to replace the decades-old hall in Ganges has itself been decades in the making.

"For more than 30 years, the dream of a new Fire Hall No. 1 was discussed, debated, planned, designed and redesigned," said

Holmes. "For many people involved over those decades, it seemed like this day would never arrive; yet here we are. There was a before today, and now there is an after."

The day's persistent serendipity enchanted community members, from a passing crow who stopped to caw along with Penelakut First Nation Chief Chakeenakwaut (Pam) Jack's opening ceremony song, to the until-then-absent breeze picking up in time to unfurl the Canadian flag as it was raised atop its new pole. Thanking her for her words and song to mark the auspicious day, Holmes presented Jack with a blanket emblazoned with the SSIFR logo and "semper paratus" ("always ready") motto.

With an audience that included interested members of the public, current and former firefighters and current and former

members of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) board — some of whom were recognized with special cornerstone plaques on the building itself — the sunny Sunday saw speeches from Holmes, MP Elizabeth May, MLA Rob Botterell, Capital Regional District (CRD) board chair Cliff McNeil-Smith, Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman and SSIFPD board chair Rollie Cook.

In his remarks thanking everyone involved in the project, an emotional Cook reflected on the often-underestimated cooperative spirit of Salt Spring Islanders, noting construction of the original fire hall in Ganges had been accomplished by residents and the firefighters themselves over the winter in 1959.

FIRE HALL continued on 6

Subscribe to the Gulf Islands Driftwood today!

AVAILABLE ON
ALL PLATFORMS

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$90
includes digital
and printed copy

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$70
printed copy
only

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
inside the
Gulf Islands
\$45
digital
only

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
outside the
Gulf Islands
\$115
includes digital
and printed copy

ANNUAL
SUBSCRIPTION
outside
Canada
\$260
includes digital
and printed copy

'35-year project' culminates in new Fire Hall No. 1



PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Chief Jamie Holmes, above, presents a blanket thanking Penelakut Chief Chakeenakwaut (Pam) Jack, with MP Elizabeth May, Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board chair Rollie Cook and MLA Rob Botterrell applauding. At right, firefighter Grant Gussie leads one of the first tours of the new fire hall, and Holmes and Cook cut the first slices of cake for the party after the opening ceremony. At bottom right, the public streams in to see the newly completed hall for the first time since construction began in 2023.



FIRE HALL

continued from 1

"This, too, is a community effort," said Cook. "I want to say thank you to every single member of the community; this was only accomplished with teamwork."

As the hall was declared open, the dual bay doors opened simultaneously and fire truck lights flashed in celebration, allowing the crowd to stream into the new disaster-ready building. Several firefighters offered tours of the facility while others fired up the grill and got the music started for what became a dance party in the parking lot behind the building.

Cutting cake with Cook, Holmes said he felt fortunate to have been part of the team as all the work on the new hall came to fruition.

"While I'm the chief that gets to move into this building, this has been a 35-year project," said Holmes. "There has been a lot of chiefs, a lot of boards and a lot of members that have worked to get this done."

Firefighting operations began from the new hall at 455 Lower Ganges Rd. in August, as the old fire hall in Ganges became the temporary home for Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue. The new hall's total project costs rang in at \$13.62 million, according to district officials — "on time, and on budget," said Cook.



Watch out for...

SEPTIC SCARIES

Pooling water in your drain field?

For more information, to register for a Septic Savvy workshop, or to request a workshop in your community, visit: crd.ca/septic

Don't let the septic scaries catch you by surprise!

A little preventative maintenance today can save you significant stress, inconvenience, and expense tomorrow.

CRD

Islands Trust Trustees,
CRD Director & Local Community Commissioners

EVENINGS WITH THE CANDIDATES

Moderator: Catherine Wedge

ISLANDS TRUST
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

LCC/CRD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

Both Nights
6:30 to 8:00pm @ Fulford Hall

CO-SPONSORED BY
THE DRIFTWOOD & SALT SPRING FORUM

salt spring forum Driftwood

September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package

TIMBAR

A JAW FOR YOUR POLE SAW

SEE TIMBAR IN ACTION

AVAILABLE LOCALLY AT WINDSOR PLYWOOD ON SALT SPRING ISLAND

Follow us on Bluesky!
[@gidrftwood.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/gidrftwood)

ROADS

Broadwell Road opens as Sunset Drive shuts

Sept. 15-17 Fulford-Ganges roadwork also scheduled

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With a new nine-foot culvert in place at Broadwell Road, the process to install a sec-

ond pipe is underway, according to road officials, who warned Salt Spring's Sunset Drive will be fully closed at Duck Creek — likely until near the end of the month.

The closure between Sunset's intersections with Monteith Road and Mountain Park Drive began Thursday, Sept. 3, according to Emcon Services, where — since an inlet collapsed months ago — Sunset has been a single-lane,

self-controlled and taking-turns affair.

A detour via Channel Ridge and the now-reopened Broadwell Road is scheduled to be in place until Friday, Sept. 25, according to Emcon, by which point work installing the new culvert is expected to be complete.

Meanwhile, utility work returns to Ganges Hill as the province advised there would be single-lane alternating traffic control

required on Fulford-Ganges Road between Drake and Bittancourt roads from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting Tuesday, Sept. 15 and continuing until Thursday, Sept. 17.

The new disruption follows work in August that completed drainage and safety changes on the island's busiest roadway, the long tail of a multi-year \$22.9-million road improvement project.

FIRE

Campfire restriction lifted

No other burning allowed; fire chief urges caution

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Following regional recommendations, Salt Spring Island fire authorities lifted a months-long ban on campfires on Thursday, Sept. 3.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Chief Jamie Holmes confirmed that small recreational fires are once more permitted within the island's fire district — but only with a SSIFR permit — adding that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure burning is done in accordance with regulations, safely and responsibly, particularly, he said, because we're not out of fire season just yet.

"Historically, we've actually had more brush fires in September and October than we do in the summer months," said Holmes. "Part of that is because everybody feels that with the weather getting a little bit cooler — and with a little bit of moisture and rain — that it's 'open season' to start burning again. But it is still very dry under the surface."

All other burning, including that in burn barrels, backyard brush or machine piles, remains prohibited. Anyone who lights, fuels or uses an open fire when a fire prohibition is in place or fails to comply with an open fire prohibition may be issued a ticket for \$1,150

or, if convicted in court, be fined up to \$100,000 and/or sentenced to one year in jail. If the contravention causes or contributes to a wildfire, the person responsible may be subject to a penalty of up to \$100,000 and ordered to pay all firefighting and associated costs, according to the Coastal Fire Centre.

The local fire hazard was rated at "extreme" the day the campfire ban was lifted and at press time Sept. 7. Holmes said that while with enough moisture islanders will see that rating creep down, it will take a thorough soaking before the danger has truly passed.

"It just doesn't take very long to dry a little bit of moisture that's on the surface," said Holmes. "And everything underneath has been basically in a kiln for the last four months."

Regional officials have indicated the ban on all other outdoor burning was unlikely to be lifted soon; Holmes said Salt Spring would also be waiting for the weather to change significantly before allowing pile burning again.

"We want to get a significant amount of rain to get everything saturated and soaked before we open up backyard burning," said Holmes. "So if people want to keep their burn piles dry, we recommend tarping them — so when there is moisture around your burn area, that material can still be nice and dry to burn hot and clean, and it won't smoke out your neighbours."

Permits are required year-round for all burning, including campfires. Apply at saltspringfire.com.

ANIMALS

Dog attack on doe stuns beach crowd

Deer killed; ticket to owner likely

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An off-leash dog chased, attacked and killed a deer at a Salt Spring beach, according to officials and neighbourhood residents, highlighting the enduring risk of conflicts with wildlife even as seasonal pet prohibitions on some island beaches are coming to an end.

The attack took place at Vesuvius Beach in the early evening Wednesday, Sept. 2, and occurred just steps from a sign warning pet owners their animals are not allowed on the beach at all — regardless of whether they're leashed — for another two weeks, according to Capital Regional District (CRD) officials, who said early investigations indicated a doe was chased into the water and did not survive the encounter.

On Salt Spring, pets are prohibited every year between June 15 and Sept. 15 at both Vesuvius Beach (from the public access stairs on Langley Road south to the bluff at the end of the gravel stretch) and Bader's Beach (for 350 metres north of the Collins Road access point), with those beaches named within the CRD's broader animal regulation bylaws.

It's not clear whether the dog was in the prohibited area Wednesday before it chased the deer. Beachgoers told the Driftwood the doe was chased at full speed down the steep embankment, across the beach, through a small group of people resting on a log and out into the water, where the dog caught up quite far out and repeatedly bit the deer.

Regular Vesuvius swimmer Lisa Maxx was at the

beach at the time, and said the medium- to large-sized dog did not respond to the owner's efforts to call it back. The deer was killed within minutes of the two animals entering the ocean, she said.

"The dog's owner came hurrying down the stairs and she was calling out to her dog," said Maxx. "She even went out into the water fully clothed and started swimming."

Maxx said as soon as the deer was dead the dog turned around and swam back to shore. The dog and owner were met by bylaw enforcement and B.C. Conservation officers, who took statements from witnesses.

Apart from seasonal prohibitions, pets are required to be leashed at all times at Salt Spring's provincial parks, according to BC Parks, including Burgoyne Bay, Ruckle, Mount Maxwell and Mount Erskine parks. A separate standard for CRD's regional parks requires dogs to always be "under control" of their owners, although the bylaw specifically calls for dogs to be in a clear line of sight of the owner — and to return when called.

In addition to fines or public restrictions through the CRD, owners and dogs can face provincial penalties through the BC Wildlife Act for allowing an animal to harass wildlife.

While usually choosing to flee, at some times of the year does can be protective of their fawns, according to WildSafeBC, which advises dogs are usually perceived by deer as threats and should be kept on-leash and under control wherever wildlife might be encountered.

CRD's animal services division can be contacted either by email at animalservices@crd.bc.ca or by calling 1-800-665-7899.

NOTICE OF FIRST READING Draft Bylaw No. 553 SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE



NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 467 of the Local Government Act, that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will consider first reading of Draft Bylaw No. 553, cited as "Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw, 1999, Amendment No. 2, 2026" at its Regular Meeting scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at the Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island.

Draft Bylaw No. 553 will, if adopted, amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 by changing the zoning at **116 Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island** from Residential 6 (R6) and Residential 6(b) (R6(b)) to Commercial 3(a) (C3(a)) for the purpose of permitting all uses allowed in the Commercial 3 zone, while retaining the funeral home, single-family dwelling or duplex use currently allowed. If approved, the amendments will also decrease the front lot line setback from 7.5 metres to 4.5 metres, the rear lot line setback from 7.5 metres to 3.0 metres and the interior side lot line setback from 3.0 metres to 1.5 metres. The property is legally described as LOT 2 SECTION 1 RANGE 3 EAST NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND COWICHAN DISTRICT PLAN EPP99513 (PID: 031-451-977). The general location of the subject property is shown on the following map:



The Local Trust Committee is not holding a Public Hearing for this Bylaw under the authority of Section 464(2) of the Local Government Act that states a local government is not required to hold a Public Hearing on a proposed zoning bylaw if an Official Community Plan (OCP) is in effect for the subject area and the draft bylaw is consistent with the OCP. Draft Bylaw No. 553 is consistent with the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 434.

A copy of the draft bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 4 -121 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island B.C. between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, and on the Islands Trust website www.islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/current-applications/, commencing September 11, 2026 and continuing up to and including September 23, 2026. A community information meeting will be held on Thursday, September 24, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island.

Enquiries or Written Comments may be directed to Rob Pingle, Islands Trust Planning Technician by email rpingle@islandstrust.bc.ca, or phone at 250-537-9144. For toll-free access, request a transfer to the above telephone number via Service BC: in Vancouver at 604-660-2421 and elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867. Written submissions must be received via email to ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or mail 4 - 121 McPhillips Ave Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T6, no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 23, 2026.

ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN

SALTSPRINGINN.COM

250-537-9339

Fresh Air, Fresh Food & Refreshing Beverages

Come by grab a spot on the patio and soak up the sun

Reservations at saltspringinn.com

NEW MUSIC

Percussion takes the stage

Of Sound Minds hosts 'Leaf' performance

SUBMITTED BY OF SOUND MINDS

On Sunday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m., Of Sound Minds welcomes the Vancouver Percussion Collective (VPC) to All Saints by-the-Sea for Leaf, a program of inventive and adventurous music for percussion ensemble.

This emerging quartet, growing out of the 240 Northern artists' studios in Vancouver, have already built a strong presence in the city. Specializing in world premieres and adventurous collaborations, the VPC will be bringing a new program to Salt Spring Island and Victoria, co-presented by Of Sound Minds and the SALT New Music Festival.

There is a particularly strong local connection to this concert. The VPC will also be joined by Salt Spring percussionist Brandon Bronson, performing Steve Reich's seminal minimalist work Music for Pieces of Wood. It's a work that aims to make music with the simplest possible of instruments, building a whole uni-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Peter Hatch at a summer show in Centennial Park. Music by Hatch is part of an All Saints Sept. 13 concert.

verse from a small, minimal set of musical ideas.

The program also includes music by Salt Spring Island-based composer Peter Hatch, whose work is presented alongside pieces by other B.C. composers, including Anna Höstman, Jocelyn Morlock, Jordan Nobles and Jon Siddall.

Music for percussion often deals directly with time. Hatch's Time

Zones is written for eight different tempos simultaneously, a response to the curious experience of communicating across continents and becoming aware of concurrent but different experiences of time. Noble's Temporal Waves shifts and changes each time it is performed, with performers playing from a score of individual musical cells, fading in and out. Höstman's Leaf meditates on attention and presence, inspired by the words of Thich Nhat Hanh.

Four percussionists create a shared world of rhythm, movement, resonance and physical gesture. In percussion music, proximity is essential. Performers must listen closely to one another, and shape musical time collectively. The audience, in turn, experiences sound not only through melody and harmony, but through impact, vibration, material and space.

Tickets are available at the door. The same program will be performed at the SALT New Music Festival at the University of Victoria on Saturday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall.



NOTICE OF TOWN HALL MEETING

Join us for the first meeting in the new fire hall



The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be holding a Town Hall Meeting to present:

The Draft 2027 Budget

The Draft 5-Year Strategic Plan

WHERE: FIRE HALL NO. 1
TRAINING ROOM,
455 LOWER GANGES ROAD

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 14, 2026
AT 6:30 PM

The Board of Trustees, Chief Administrative Officer and the Fire Chief will make presentations and receive feedback from the public in attendance

HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR?

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

LITERARY EVENTS

Magic Underfoot set to launch

Salt Spring Island author Coralie Moss is launching her latest urban fantasy book — Magic Underfoot — at the Salt Spring Public Library on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 1 p.m.

Magic Underfoot is the fifth book in Moss' series, The Witches of Salt Spring Island, and her 21st work of fiction overall. Much of the

series is set on the island and a handful of characters were inspired by locals. The series focuses on a divorced witch named Calliope, her two teenaged sons and the witches, druids, necromancers and other "Magicals" she meets as she navigates life, falls in love and learns to manage her innate magic.



Big savings are knocking!

WIN UP TO \$4,000 towards a new Entry Door!

Quote of 5 or more windows qualifies entry.*

* No cash value, on installation orders only. Some conditions apply.

Spread out the payment using our 8 Payment Plan + NO INTEREST!*

A portion of proceeds from every order will be donated to local food banks.



Tony Canevaro
Sales Rep



Nathan Wells
Sales Rep



Van Isle Windows LIMITED



Portatec PORTES | DOORS

Call to make an appointment: 250.383.7128 • vanislewindows.com

ArtSpring Presents

2026-27 SEASON

Sep 27

Oct 8

Oct 14

Oct 23

Oct 25

Oct 29

Nov 1

Nov 5

Nov 10

Nov 14

Dec 13

Jan 16

Jan 24

Jan 27

Feb 7

Feb 13

Feb 16

Feb 18

Mar 1

Mar 6

Mar 16

Mar 17

Mar 23

Apr 2

Apr 17

May 14

Jul 16

Dan Mangan

Banff Mountain Film Fest

Collage Trad

Poiesis String Quartet

Lloyd Spiegel

Water Words

Tulua

Phil Dwyer

Meadows of Stone

Get Back Unplugged

The Gingerbread Men: A Holiday Cabaret

Victoria Baroque

I Don't Belong Here

International Guitar Night

History of Motown

Yuki the Juggler

PIQSIQ

Wonderheads: The Wilds

Baby Space Opera

Jon Kimura Parker

Carousel Theatre: Stuart Little

CaneFire with Jeremy Ledbetter

Bergmann Duo, Wood, & Lim

Lennie Gallant

Nicole Rose Bond: Dancestors

Shaun Boothe

Treasure Fair Concert: Jeff Newman

GET YOUR TICKETS FOR THE SEASON NOW!

INFO ▶ artspring.ca

TICKETS ▶ 250.537.2102

purchase.artspring.ca

SEASON PARTNERS

 Island Savings

 GANGES VILLAGE MARKETPLACE

NICOLE ROSE BOND PHOTO BY ALEKSANDAR ANTONIJEVIC

2026-2031 DRAFT Strategic Plan

A safer, stronger and more resilient Salt Spring Island

Town Hall Presentation



Vision and Mission Statements



Vision

A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.



Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

A Draft Strategic Plan to meet Community needs

1

Our People & Workplace

2

Infrastructure & Capital

3

Financial Management

4

Emergency Response

5

Community Relationships

The plan is reviewed annually so priorities stay aligned with community expectations, operational risk and available resources.

Priority 1: Our People & Workplace

Build capacity, support wellness and prepare for leadership transition.



Strategic Actions

Create an Assistant Deputy Chief function focused on Operations, Human Resources, Training and Public Education.

- Update policies and operating instructions
- Explore staff housing options (RV Pads)
- Formal succession planning for key operational and administrative roles

Retention above 90%

Leadership development

Succession plans complete

Priority 2: Infrastructure & Capital Planning

Make facilities, apparatus and emergency water supply ready for growing risk.

Major focus

Deliver Hall No. 3 planning and be tender-ready in 2029.

- Project business plans, charters and financing options for satellite halls No. 2 and No. 3
- Portable saltwater pump acquisition
- Long-term capital funding strategy: reserves, grants and debt financing



Hall No. 3 milestones on schedule

Capital projects within budget

Apparatus readiness maintained

Priority 3: Prudent Financial Management

Maintain sustainability while showing transparency, accountability and value.



FINANCIAL MODEL

Integrate capital, staffing and debt forecasts so the community can see the long-term picture.

Strategic Actions

- Maintain reserve contribution targets
- Maximize grants, donations and alternate revenue
- Communicate the capital plan clearly to stakeholders

Alternate revenue opportunities including FireSmart, wildfire deployment, donations, grants and training room rentals at the new fire hall.

Priorities 4 & 5: Response and Community

Prepared operations, stronger partnerships and public trust.



Emergency Prevention & Response

- Fire prevention and life-safety engagement
- Emergency Operations and neighbourhood POD integration
- Change-management strategy for operations and administration



Community Relationships & Governance

Strategic Actions

- Capital-plan communications strategy
- Community handout on fire-rescue capabilities and property insurance information
- Trustee and committee recruitment pathways

Key Performance Indicators

Response-time targets achieved; annual training compliance maintained; community risk reduction initiatives completed.

Community satisfaction results maintained. Stakeholder partnerships maintained.

What success looks like

Annual review, measurable outcomes and public accountability.

1

People

Retention, wellness and succession

2

Infrastructure

Hall No. 3 and capital milestones

3

Finance

Reserve targets and grants

4

Response

Training and response-time targets

5

Community

Partnerships and public confidence

Town Hall dialogue

Your feedback helps the SSIFPD Board of Trustees confirm priorities, explain trade-offs and keep the plan aligned with community needs.

Thank you

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

2026–2031 DRAFT Strategic Plan



Executive Summary

The Board of Trustees has revised the 5-year Strategic Plan to focus on five strategic priorities that strengthen organizational sustainability, emergency service delivery, workforce capacity, governance, and infrastructure readiness.

This priority-based framework replaces a year-based implementation approach and enables the District to focus resources on the initiatives that provide the greatest operational and community benefit. The highest priorities are workforce development and infrastructure planning, recognizing the importance of leadership succession, training capacity, and the delivery of Hall No. 3.

Financial sustainability and emergency response effectiveness remain key priorities, while community engagement and governance support continued public trust and accountability.

The plan will be reviewed annually to ensure priorities remain aligned with operational risks, community expectations, and available resources.



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 2026-2031 DRAFT Strategic Plan



Vision

A responsive and sustainable fire-rescue service, effectively meeting community needs and valued by those we serve.



Mission

Always learning, engaging and adapting to be response ready.

STRATEGIC FOCUS



**Our People and
Workplace**



Infrastructure



**Emergency
Prevention and
Response**



**Community
Relationships**



Finances

GOALS

Attract and retain a diverse, physically and mentally fit team that includes Career, Paid on Call and administrative members to provide value for our community.

Infrastructure that supports an effective, reliable and resilient fire service to better address increasing risks and hazards .

Deliver a fire-rescue service that prevents and responds to emergencies in a safe, effective and timely manner.

Foster positive relationships to address community concerns and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Prudent financial management incorporating long term strategic thinking based on principles of transparency and accountability to all stakeholders to maintain public trust.



Strategic Priorities, Objectives and Actions

Priority Rank	Strategic Goals	Objectives	Strategic Actions
 1	Our People and Workplace	Strengthen organizational capacity through the creation of an Assistant Deputy Chief function responsible for Human Resources, Training, and Public Education. Responsible: Strategic Planning and Policy Committee	1. Update policies and operating instructions 2. Explore staff housing options. 3. Establish a formal succession planning program for all key operational and administrative positions.
 2	Infrastructure and Capital Planning	Deliver sustainable infrastructure and capital investments to support operational readiness and community growth. Responsible: Finance Committee	1. Develop Project Business Plan, Project Charter and financing options for satellite fire halls No. 2 and No. 3. Be tender ready for construction of Hall No. 3 in 2029. 2. Acquire a portable saltwater pump. 3. Create a long-term capital funding strategy integrating reserves, grants, and debt financing.
 3	Prudent Financial Management	Maintain long-term financial sustainability while demonstrating transparency, accountability, and value to taxpayers. Responsible: Finance Committee	1. Develop a long-term financial sustainability model incorporating capital, staffing, and debt forecasts. 2. Alternate revenue includes Fire Smart, wildfire deployment, donations, grants and room rentals in the new fire hall No. 1. 3. Need to communicate the capital plan to stakeholders.



Strategic Priorities, Objectives and Actions

Priority Rank	Strategic Goal	Objective	Priority Level	Strategic Actions
 4	Emergency Prevention and Response	Improve emergency response effectiveness through training, data analysis, technology, and community risk reduction. Responsible: Fire Chief and Chief Administrative Officer	High	1. Foster or participate in community engagement, support and participation in fire prevention and life safety activities. 2. Explore options for incorporating CRD Emergency Operations and the Neighbourhood POD program into fire hall No.1 operations. 3. Develop and implement a change management strategy for operations and administration.
 5	Community Relationships and Governance	Strengthen community trust, engagement, and collaboration with stakeholders and partner agencies. Responsible: Community Relations Committee	Medium-High	1. Develop a communications strategy to inform stakeholders of capital plans. 2. Develop a community handout informing stakeholders of SSIFR capacities for insurance information and to be included in the annual Ministry of Finance property tax envelope and on the web page. 3. Develop a method to encourage Trustee and Committee member recruitments.



Desired Outcomes and Performance Measures

Priority	Strategic Area	Desired Outcome	Recommended Board Performance Measures (KPIs)
 1	Our People & Workplace	Build leadership capacity, improve training delivery, strengthen HR administration, support succession planning, and enhance workforce wellness.	Employee retention rate above 90%; annual leadership development participation; succession plans completed.
 2	Infrastructure & Capital Planning	Deliver Hall No. 3, maintain apparatus readiness, improve emergency water supply infrastructure, and support long-term service growth.	Hall No.3 milestones achieved on schedule; capital projects delivered within budget.
 3	Financial Management	Ensure sustainable funding, maintain reserves, maximize grant opportunities, and demonstrate accountability to taxpayers.	Reserve contribution targets achieved; successful grant funding secured; annual financial benchmarks completed.
 4	Emergency Prevention & Response	Improve response performance, operational readiness, officer development, and community risk reduction.	Response-time targets achieved; annual training compliance maintained; community risk reduction initiatives completed.
 5	Community Relationships	Strengthen public confidence, improve transparency, increase community participation, and enhance stakeholder partnerships.	Community satisfaction results maintained. Stakeholder partnerships maintained.



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
 455 Lower Ganges Road
 Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2P6

September 14, 2026

Subject: Property Insurance Considerations and Distance from Fire Halls

Dear Insurance Broker,

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District has received concerns from property owners regarding the potential effect that distance from the nearest fire hall may have on property insurance premiums.

Some residents have been advised that properties located more than approximately eight kilometres from a fire hall may experience higher premiums or reduced insurance options. We understand, however, that insurance requirements and underwriting criteria vary considerably among insurers. Some providers may offer coverage for properties located within 10, 13, or even 15 kilometres of a recognized fire hall.

This may create an opportunity for brokers and insurers to provide competitive options to Salt Spring Island property owners who may fall outside the traditional eight-kilometre guideline. We encourage brokers to consider the significant improvements that have been made to fire protection services on Salt Spring Island in recent years.

- Continuous 24-hour, seven-day-a-week staffing and emergency response coverage.
- Faster and more consistent emergency response capabilities.
- A new post-disaster main fire hall with increased space for equipment, training, emergency coordination, and operational readiness.
- A 750,000-gallon emergency water reserve pond at the Fulford Fire Station.
- Approximately 25,000 gallons of dedicated water storage at the new main fire hall.
- A new ladder truck that significantly improves the Department's ability to respond to multi-storey structures and complex incidents.
- A dedicated brush truck for rapid response to local wildland and interface fires.
- Improved equipment, training, staffing, and operational procedures.
- Continued collaboration with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to support hydrant maintenance and the reliability of emergency water supplies.

These investments have substantially improved the level of fire protection available to island residents, businesses, and property owners. The District believes that insurance assessments should consider the current capabilities of the Fire Rescue Department rather than relying only on historic assumptions or distance from a fire hall.

We recognize that insurance premiums remain the responsibility of individual insurers and are affected by many factors, including the construction and condition of a building, access, water supply, claims history, wildfire exposure, and individual underwriting requirements.

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District would welcome the opportunity to work with local insurance brokers to develop clear information for property owners. This could include guidance on the information residents should provide when requesting insurance quotes, the distance criteria used by different insurers, and the fire protection improvements that may be relevant to an underwriting assessment.

Our goal is to ensure that Salt Spring Island property owners have access to accurate information and are encouraged to explore all available insurance markets rather than responding to rumours or assuming that distance alone will result in a substantial premium increase.

Please contact the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District should you require additional information regarding our fire halls, staffing levels, apparatus, emergency water supplies, response capabilities, or recent service improvements.

Thank you for your assistance and your continued service to Salt Spring Island residents and businesses.

Sincerely,

Rollie Cook

Chair, Board of Trustees
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Rodney Dieleman

Chief Administrative Officer
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Jamie Holmes

Fire Chief
Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
455 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2P6
250-537-2531



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Draft 2027 Budget

2027 budget at a glance

A balanced plan focused on service excellence and long-term value for you.

\$6.34M

Tax revenue requirement

\$5.33M

Operating expenses

\$1.01M

Capital contributions

4.9%

Taxation increase

2027 Budget Executive Summary

The proposed **2027 operating and capital budget totals \$6.34 million in tax revenue**, representing a **4.9% increase** over the 2026 approved budget.

The largest cost pressures are in **wages and benefits**, which increase to **\$4.27 million**, reflecting higher management wages, negotiated and projected compensation increases, pension costs, and employee benefit expenses. Operating costs also increase to **\$665,000**, driven primarily by higher vehicle operating costs, fuel, utilities, protective clothing, and facility-related expenses.

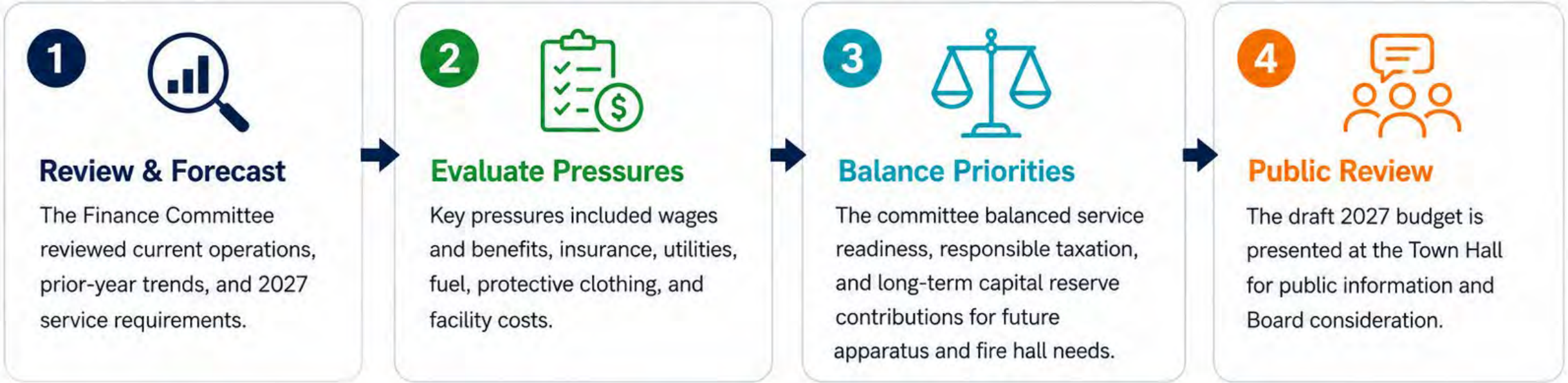
Administration, overhead, and trustee expenses total **\$313,500**, an increase of **\$46,500**, largely due to higher insurance costs and anticipated Trustee meeting and election expenses.

The budget also provides **\$1.01 million in capital reserve contributions**, primarily for future apparatus replacement and fire hall requirements. These contributions continue the District's strategy of building reserves to address major future capital needs while reducing reliance on future borrowing.

Overall, the 2027 budget reflects continued investment in staffing, service delivery, capital reserves, and long-term infrastructure while maintaining the projected annual tax revenue increase at **4.9%**.

2027 Draft Budget Process

Finance Chair overview for the Town Hall Meeting – September 14, 2026



The Finance Committee worked hard over several meetings to develop a balanced 2027 budget that supports current service levels and long-term sustainability.



2027 Tax Revenue:
\$6.34M



Annual Increase:
4.9%

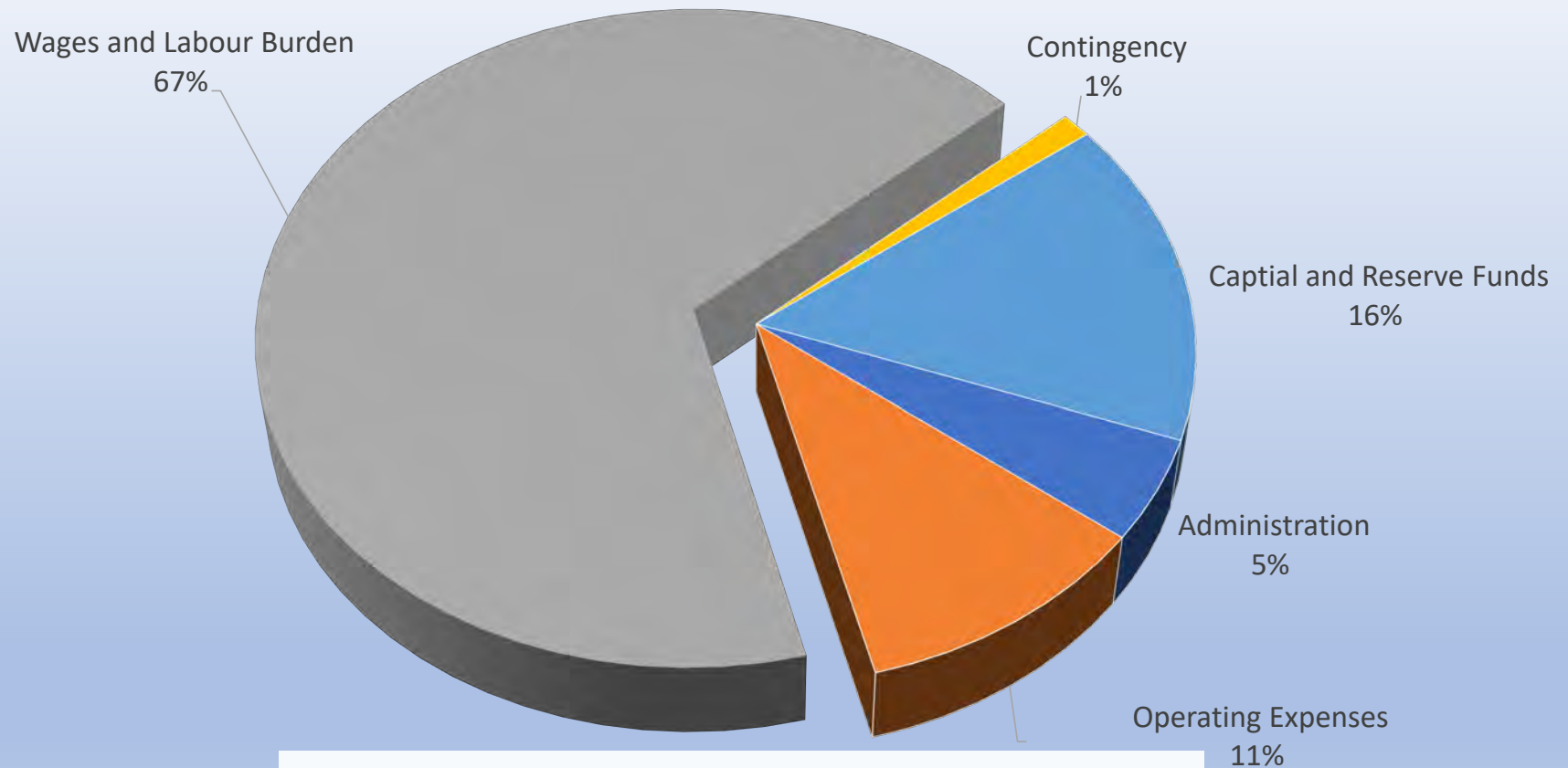


Wages & Benefits:
\$4.27M



Capital Reserves:
\$1.01M

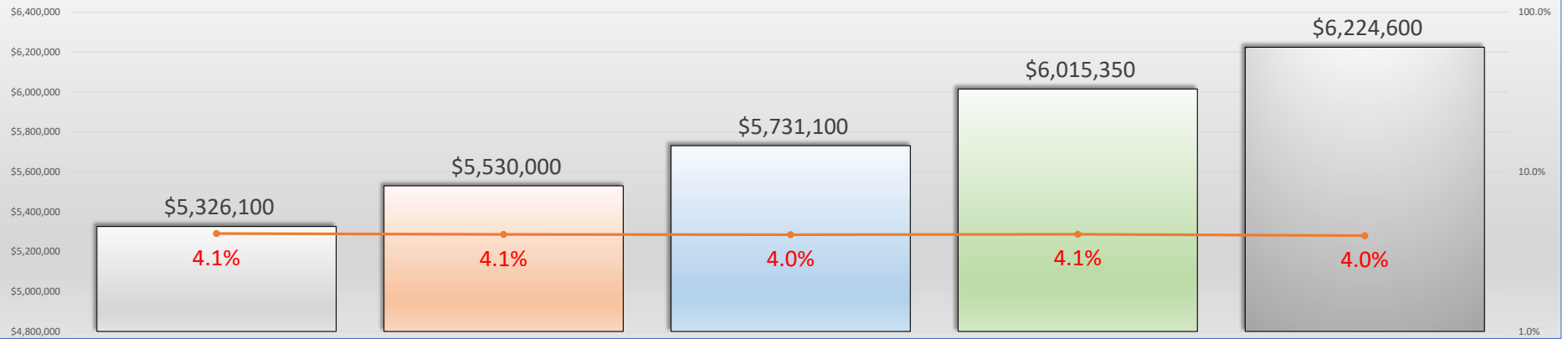




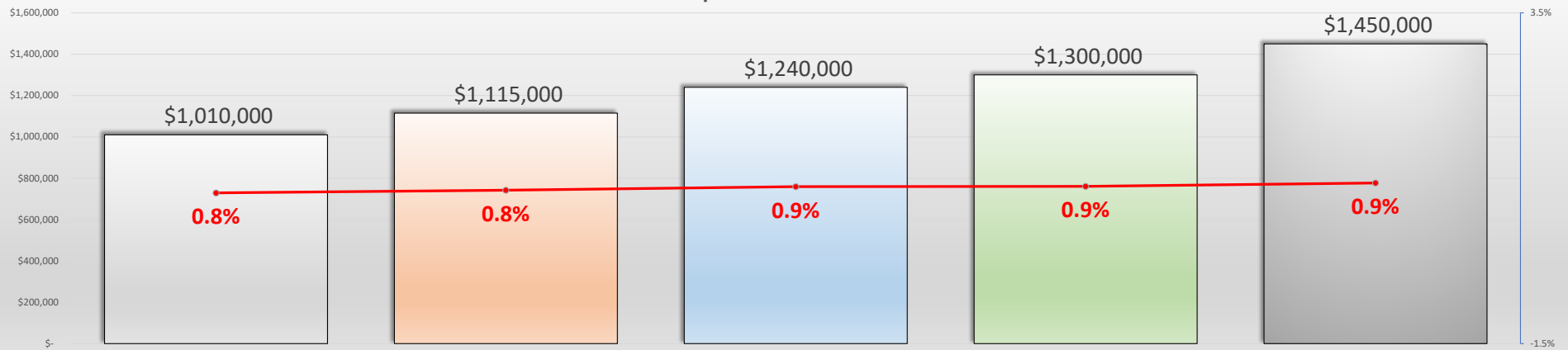
Where the money goes

People and readiness make up the majority of planned spending.

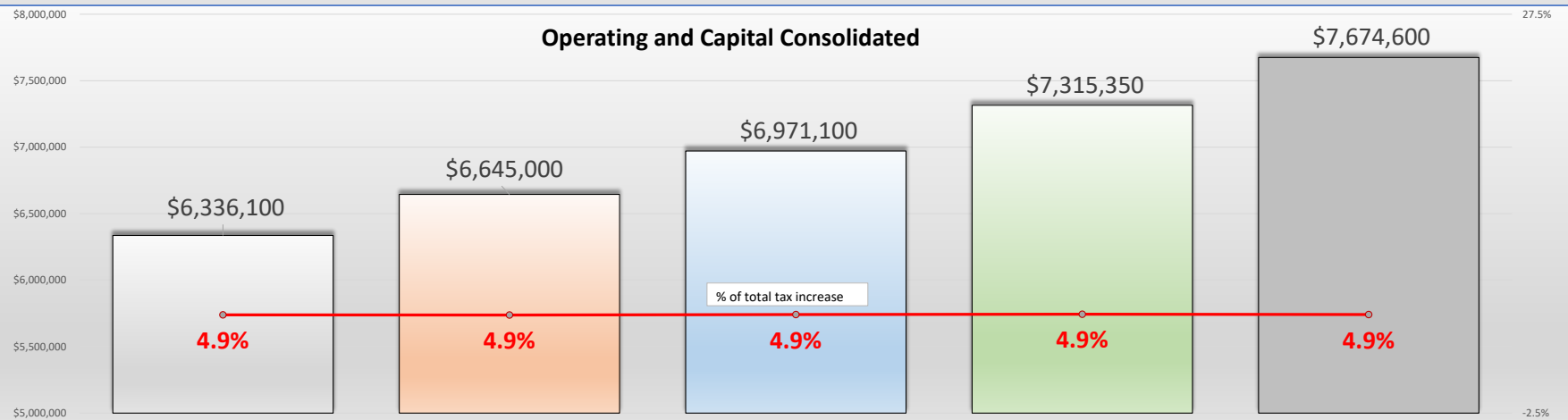
Operating



Capital Investment



Operating and Capital Consolidated



2027

2028

2029

2030

2031

2027 BUDGET SUMMARY

Responsible today. Prepared for tomorrow.



SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



TOTAL TAX REVENUE

\$6.34M

2026: \$6.04M



2027 TAX INCREASE

4.9%

\$295,100 increase

FOCUS



Funding today's services while planning for tomorrow.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2027 Proposed Budget vs. 2026 Approved

	2026 APPROVED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Wages & Benefits	\$3,823,000	\$4,269,600	+\$446,600	+11.7%
Operating Expenses	\$601,000	\$665,000	+\$64,000	+10.6%
Administration	\$267,000	\$313,500	+\$46,500	+17.4%
Contingency	\$60,000	\$78,000	+\$18,000	+30.0%
Capital & Reserve Contributions	\$1,290,000	\$1,010,000	-\$280,000	-21.7%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$6,041,000	\$6,336,100	+\$295,100	+4.9%

DRIVERS OF THE 2027 INCREASE



WAGES & BENEFITS

Increase due to the addition of a management position, along with negotiated and projected compensation, pension and benefit costs.



+\$446K
(7.4%)



OPERATING EXPENSES

Higher vehicle operating costs, utilities, protective clothing, and facility-related expenses.



+\$64K
(1.1%)



CAPITAL & RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Reduced planned contributions to capital and reserve funds.



-\$280K
(-4.6%)



The overall tax increase is **4.9%** balancing today's needs with long-term sustainability.

HISTORICAL & PROJECTED TAX INCREASE



Stable, predictable tax increases help us plan responsibly and continue delivering essential services to our community.

2027 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY

Supporting governance and administration today. Planning responsibly for tomorrow.



**SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

\$313.5K

2026: \$267.0K



2027 INCREASE

17.4%

+\$46,500 increase



FOCUS

Governance, insurance, communications, and administrative support.

DRIVERS OF THE 2027 INCREASE



INSURANCE

Higher insurance premiums.

↑ **+\$20K**



TRUSTEE MEETINGS & ELECTIONS

Increased costs for trustee meetings and election-related requirements.

↑ **+\$20K**



COMMUNICATIONS

Higher phone and general communications costs.

↑ **+\$6K**



OFFSETS

Elimination of licenses, leases & rentals helps offset some increases.

↓ **-\$9K**



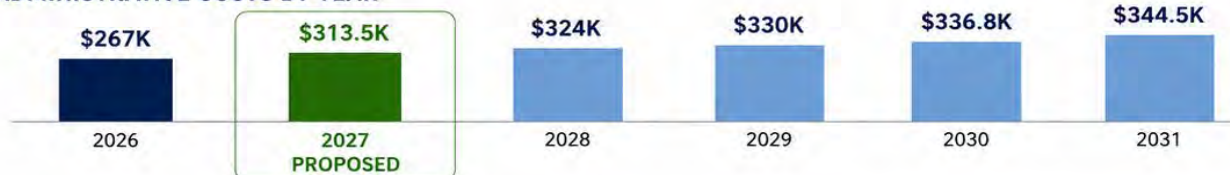
The overall administrative budget increase is **17.4%**, largely driven by insurance and trustee meeting/election costs.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2027 Proposed Budget vs. 2026 Approved

	2026 APPROVED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Insurance	\$60,000	\$80,000	+\$20,000	+33.3%
Trustee Meetings & Elections	\$30,000	\$50,000	+\$20,000	+66.7%
Communications - Phone	\$20,000	\$25,000	+\$5,000	+25.0%
Audit & Related Fees	\$20,000	\$22,000	+\$2,000	+10.0%
Consulting Fees	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	0.0%
Labour Relations	\$24,000	\$25,000	+\$1,000	+4.2%
Other Administrative Costs	\$88,000	\$86,500	-\$1,500	-1.7%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$267,000	\$313,500	+\$46,500	+17.4%

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS BY YEAR



After the larger 2027 adjustment, annual growth moderates to roughly **2%–3%** through 2031.

2027 OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

Supporting frontline readiness today. Planning responsibly for tomorrow.



**SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET

\$665K

2026: \$601K



2027 INCREASE

10.6%

+\$64,000 increase



FOCUS

Vehicles, utilities, training, facilities, and frontline operational readiness.

DRIVERS OF THE 2027 INCREASE



VEHICLE OPERATING

Higher fuel, maintenance, and apparatus operating costs.

+\$30K



FIRE STATION UTILITIES

Higher utility costs across facilities.

+\$19K



LANDSCAPING

Increased grounds and site maintenance requirements.

+\$8K



OTHER TARGETED INCREASES

Protective clothing, training, station maintenance, and SCBA.

+\$7K



The overall operating budget increases **10.6%**, driven mainly by vehicle operating and utility costs.



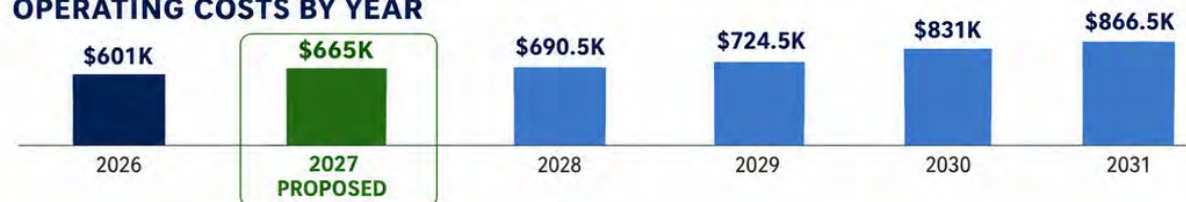
After 2027, annual operating cost growth is projected at **3.8%**, **4.9%**, **14.7%**, and **4.3%** through 2031.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2027 Proposed Budget vs. 2026 Approved

	2026 APPROVED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Vehicle Operating	\$110,000	\$140,000	+\$30,000	+27.3%
Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$80,000	\$82,000	+\$2,000	+2.5%
Hydrant Install/Repair	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0	0.0%
Clothing - Protective	\$61,000	\$63,000	+\$2,000	+3.3%
Fire Station Utilities	\$41,000	\$60,000	+\$19,000	+46.3%
Fire Station Repair & Maintenance	\$49,000	\$50,000	+\$1,000	+2.0%
Landscaping	\$8,000	\$16,000	+\$8,000	+100.0%
Other Operating Costs	\$177,000	\$179,000	+\$2,000	+1.1%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$601,000	\$665,000	+\$64,000	+10.6%

OPERATING COSTS BY YEAR



2027 WAGES & BENEFITS SUMMARY

Supporting people and service readiness today. Planning responsibly for tomorrow.



**SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**



TOTAL WAGES & BENEFITS

\$4.27M

2026: \$3.82M



2027 INCREASE

11.7%

+\$446,600 increase



FOCUS

Staffing, management capacity, pensions, and employee benefits.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

2027 Proposed Budget vs. 2026 Approved

	2026 APPROVED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Administration Wages	\$328,687	\$336,600	+\$7,913	+2.4%
Fire Rescue Service Management	\$376,000	\$587,000	+\$211,000	+56.1%
Career / Excluded / Casual Staff	\$1,871,313	\$1,936,000	+\$64,687	+3.5%
Paid-on-call Members	\$290,000	\$302,000	+\$12,000	+4.1%
Statutory & Group Benefits	\$957,000	\$1,108,000	+\$151,000	+15.8%
TOTAL WAGES & BENEFITS	\$3,823,000	\$4,269,600	+\$446,600	+11.7%

DRIVERS OF THE 2027 INCREASE



MANAGEMENT WAGES

Addition of a management position.

+\$211K



BENEFITS

Higher pension, HUB health benefits, CPP, and WCB/group benefit costs.

+\$151K



CAREER / CASUAL WAGES

General wage growth for career, excluded, and casual staff.

+\$64.7K



POC & ADMIN WAGES

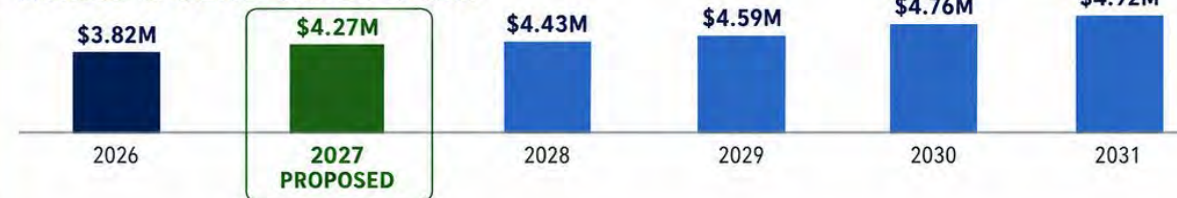
Increases in paid-on-call and administration wages.

+\$19.9K



The overall wages & benefits budget increases **11.7%**, driven mainly by the added management position and related benefit costs.

WAGES & BENEFITS BY YEAR



After 2027, annual growth is projected at **3.8%**, **3.5%**, **3.6%**, and **3.4%** through 2031.

2027 CAPITAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Investing today. Preparing for tomorrow.



SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



TOTAL CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$1.01M

2026: \$1.29M



2027 CHANGE

-21.7%

-\$280,000 change



FOCUS

Building reserves for apparatus, facilities, and equipment.

WHERE THE CAPITAL FUNDING GOES

2027 Proposed Contributions vs. 2026 Approved

	2026 APPROVED	2027 PROPOSED	\$ CHANGE
 Apparatus Fund	\$440,000	\$500,000	+\$60,000
 Satellite Hall #3	\$100,000	\$250,000	+\$150,000
 Satellite Hall #2	\$0	\$125,000	+\$125,000
 Equipment Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
 Payroll Liability Reserve	\$0	\$50,000	+\$50,000
 Main Fire Hall #1 Fund	\$0	\$25,000	+\$25,000
 Water Fund	\$50,000	\$10,000	-\$40,000
TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET	\$1,290,000	\$1,010,000	-\$280,000

KEY DRIVERS OF THE 2027 CAPITAL PLAN



APPARATUS REPLACEMENT

Continued reserve building for future major apparatus replacement.

+\$500K



FIRE HALL REQUIREMENTS

Funding for future hall needs, including Satellite Hall #2, Satellite Hall #3, and Main Fire Hall #1.

+\$400K



OTHER CAPITAL PRIORITIES

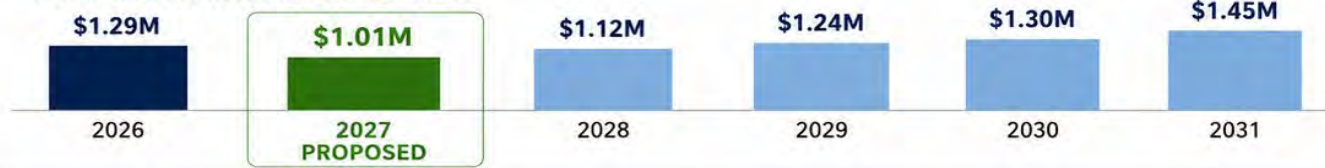
Equipment, payroll liability reserve, and water infrastructure funding.

+\$110K



End-of-year reserve balances are projected to grow to **\$2.39M** in 2027.

CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS BY YEAR



The capital plan continues to build reserves for future apparatus replacement, facility needs, and long-term financial sustainability.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

A

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
1		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
2	Income						
8	Tax Revenue	\$6,041,000	\$6,336,100	\$6,645,000	\$6,971,100	\$7,315,350	\$7,674,600
9	Total Income	\$6,041,000	\$6,336,100	\$6,645,000	\$6,971,100	\$7,315,350	\$7,674,600
10		6.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
11	Administration Expenses						
14	Advertising	\$6,000	\$ 8,500	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
15	Trustee Meetings and Elections	\$30,000	\$ 50,000	\$51,000	\$52,000	\$53,000	\$54,000
16	Annual Dinner	\$8,000	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
17	Audit & Related Fees	\$20,000	\$ 22,000	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500
18	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fees/Telpay Fees/Finance Charges	\$2,000	\$ 2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
19	Communications - Phone	\$20,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
20	Communications & Miscellaneous	\$7,000	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
21	Community Relations	\$2,000	\$ 2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
22	Conferences	\$5,000	\$ 7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
23	Consulting Fees	\$25,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
24	Dues & Subscriptions	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,250	\$5,000
25	Fireworks	\$5,000	\$ 6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,500
26	Freight/Postage	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
27	Insurance	\$60,000	\$ 80,000	\$82,000	\$84,000	\$86,000	\$88,000
28	Labour Relations	\$24,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
29	Legal	\$16,000	\$ 16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500
30	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$9,000					
31	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$16,000	\$ 16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000
32	Professional Development - Excluded Staff	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
35	Total Adminstration, Overhead Costs and Trustee Expenses	\$267,000	\$313,500	\$324,000	\$330,000	\$336,750	\$344,500
36							
37	Amortization	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
38							
39	Operating Expenses						
40	Clothing - Career	\$18,000	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
41	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$18,500
42	Clothing - Protective	\$61,000	\$63,000	\$65,000	\$68,000	\$71,000	\$75,000
43	Computer, Hardware, Software & Supplies	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
44	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000
45	Equipment - Repair & Maintenance	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,000
46	Equipment Purchase - Small Tools	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
47	Fire Department Record System	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
48	Fire Prevention & Public Education	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
49	Fire Hall Repair & Maintenance	\$49,000	\$50,000	\$52,000	\$55,000	\$58,000	\$61,000
50	Fire Hall Utilities	\$41,000	\$60,000	\$62,000	\$65,000	\$75,000	\$79,000
51	First Responder	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
52	Foam	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
53	Health & Wellness	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
54	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$89,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
55	Landscaping	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
56	Major Incident	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
57	Miscellaneous	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
58	Paid-on-call recruitment & Retention	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
59	Radio Equipment Repair & Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
60	SCBA	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$23,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
61	Supplies & Sundries	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
62	Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$80,000	\$82,000	\$84,000	\$88,000	\$125,000	\$131,000
63	Vehicle Operating	\$110,000	\$140,000	\$144,000	\$151,000	\$175,000	\$184,000
64	Total Operating Expenses	\$601,000	\$665,000	\$690,500	\$724,500	\$831,000	\$866,500
66							
67	Wage & Related Expenses						
68	Administration Wages	\$328,687	\$336,600	\$348,600	\$361,600	\$374,600	\$388,600
69	Fire Rescue Service Management Wages	\$376,000	\$587,000	\$611,000	\$635,000	\$660,000	\$687,000
70	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$1,871,313	\$1,936,000	\$2,011,000	\$2,093,000	\$2,179,000	\$2,265,000
71	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$290,000	\$302,000	\$314,000	\$327,000	\$341,000	\$355,000
72	Total Wages	\$2,866,000	\$3,161,600	\$3,284,600	\$3,416,600	\$3,554,600	\$3,695,600
73	Statutory & Group Benefits						
74	Employee Allowances	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
75	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$161,000	\$165,000	\$173,000	\$178,000	\$183,000	\$188,000
76	Employer CPP Expense	\$81,000	\$100,000	\$102,000	\$101,000	\$102,000	\$102,000
77	Employer EI Expense	\$33,000	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
78	Employer Health Tax & BC Medical Services Plan	\$59,000	\$65,000	\$68,000	\$71,000	\$74,000	\$77,000
79	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension Benefit	\$354,000	\$420,000	\$437,000	\$454,000	\$472,000	\$483,000
80	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000
81	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$101,000	\$115,000	\$117,000	\$118,000	\$119,000	\$121,000
82	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$100,000	\$140,000	\$148,000	\$148,000	\$148,000	\$148,000
83	Matching RRSP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
84	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$957,000	\$1,108,000	\$1,149,000	\$1,174,000	\$1,202,000	\$1,223,000
85	Total Wages & Benefits	\$3,823,000	\$4,269,600	\$4,433,600	\$4,590,600	\$4,756,600	\$4,918,600
86	September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package						Page 97 of 126
87	Extraordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$60,000	\$78,000	\$81,900	\$86,000.00	\$91,000.00	\$95,000.00

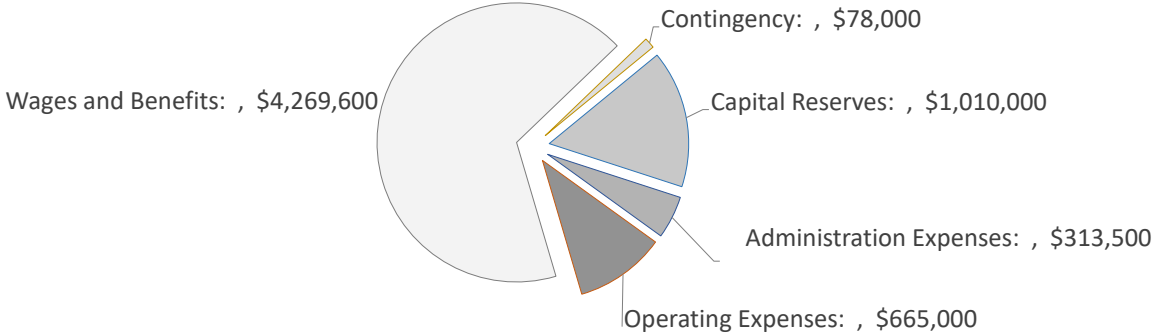
A

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
88							
89	Total Expenses	\$4,976,000	\$5,551,100	\$5,760,000	\$5,961,100	\$6,245,350	\$6,454,600
90	Bond Repayment Interest	\$263,095	\$410,349	\$400,378	\$389,967	\$379,099	\$367,752
91	Surplus Before Capital Expenses & Transfers to Reserves	\$801,905	\$374,651	\$484,622	\$620,033	\$690,901	\$852,248
92							
93	Capital and Other Reserve Funds, Debt Repayment						
95	Apparatus Fund:	\$ 440,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 550,000	\$600,000	\$625,000	\$800,000
96	Main Fire Hall No. 1 Fund:		\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000
97	Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$125,000
98	Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
99	Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
100	Water Fund:	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
104	Payroll Liability:	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000
114	Bond Repayment Principle:	\$ 373,880	\$ 226,626	\$ 236,598	\$247,008	\$257,876	\$269,223
115	Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds	\$1,013,880	\$1,236,626	\$1,351,598	\$1,487,008	\$1,557,876	\$1,719,223
117							
118	Change in Fund Balances After Capital Expenses & Principal Payments LTD	-\$ 211,975	-\$ 861,975	-\$ 866,976	-\$866,975	-\$866,975	-\$866,975
119	Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
120	Non Cash Expense (Bond) Repayment)	\$636,975	\$636,975	\$636,976	\$636,975	\$636,975	\$636,975
126	Change in Financial Position	\$650,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

A

Budget Summary							
Description	2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection	2026 vs 2027 Change
Taxation Revenue:	\$ 4,751,000	\$ 5,326,100	\$ 5,530,000	\$ 5,731,100	\$ 6,015,350	\$ 6,224,600	\$ 575,100
Capital Investment Revenue:	\$ 1,290,000	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 1,240,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,450,000	-\$ 280,000
Total Revenue:	\$ 6,041,000	\$ 6,336,100	\$ 6,645,000	\$ 6,971,100	\$ 7,315,350	\$ 7,674,600	\$ 295,100
Administration Expenses:	\$ 267,000	\$ 313,500	\$ 324,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 336,750	\$ 344,500	\$ 46,500
Operating Expenses:	\$ 601,000	\$ 665,000	\$ 690,500	\$ 724,500	\$ 831,000	\$ 866,500	\$ 64,000
Wages and Benefits:	\$ 3,823,000	\$ 4,269,600	\$ 4,433,600	\$ 4,590,600	\$ 4,756,600	\$ 4,918,600	\$ 446,600
Contingency:	\$ 60,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 81,900	\$ 86,000	\$ 91,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 18,000
Capital Reserves:	\$ 1,290,000	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 1,240,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,450,000	-\$ 280,000
Total Expenditures:	\$ 6,041,000	\$ 6,336,100	\$ 6,645,000	\$ 6,971,100	\$ 7,315,350	\$ 7,674,600	\$ 295,100
Annual Increase		\$ 295,100	\$ 308,900	\$ 326,100	\$ 344,250	\$ 359,250	
Tax Increase	6.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	
Capital Investment		16%	17%	18%	18%	19%	



Executive Summary – Capital and Reserve Fund Projections

The proposed **2027 capital budget totals \$1.01 million**, supporting long-term reserves for apparatus, facilities, equipment, water infrastructure, and other future obligations.

The largest contribution is **\$500,000 to the Apparatus Fund**, followed by **\$250,000 for Satellite Hall No. 3** and **\$125,000 for Satellite Hall No. 2**.

Additional contributions include **\$50,000 to the Equipment Fund**, **\$50,000 to the Payroll Liability Reserve**, **\$25,000 for Main Fire Hall No. 1**, and **\$10,000 to the Water Fund**.

With only **\$30,000 in planned withdrawals** in 2027, total reserve balances are projected to increase from approximately **\$1.41 million at the end of 2026 to \$2.39 million at the end of 2027**.

Overall, the 2027 capital plan continues to build reserves in preparation for future apparatus replacement, facility needs, equipment purchases, and other significant

A

Capatl Budget

Funds	2026 Capital Approved			2027 Capital Projection			2028 Budget Projection		
Apparatus Fund:	\$ 440,000			\$ 500,000			\$ 550,000		
Satellite Hall No. 1 Fund:				\$ 25,000			\$ 50,000		
Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:				\$ 125,000			\$ 100,000		
Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 100,000			\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000		
Fire Hall No. 1 Mortgage Bond:	\$ 650,000			\$ -			\$ -		
Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000		
Water Fund:	\$ 50,000			\$ 10,000			\$ 15,000		
Payroll Liability Non-capital Reserve Fund:				\$ 50,000			\$ 100,000		
	<u>\$ 1,290,000</u>			<u>\$ 1,010,000</u>			<u>\$ 1,115,000</u>		
Fund Balances	2026 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawls	Fund Balance 2026	2027 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawls	Fund Balance 2027	2028 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawls	Fund Balance 2028
Apparatus Fund:	\$ 440,000	-\$ 650,000	\$ 654,994	\$ 500,000		\$ 1,154,994	\$ 550,000		\$ 1,704,994
Main Fire Hall No. 1 Fund:	\$ 650,000	\$ 34,694	\$ 650,000	\$ 25,000		\$ 675,000	\$ 50,000		\$ 725,000
Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:			\$ -	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 225,000
Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 100,000	-\$ 375,930	\$ 47,761	\$ 250,000		\$ 297,761	\$ 250,000		\$ 547,761
Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000	-\$ 152,074	\$ -	\$ 50,000	-\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 50,000	-\$ 40,000	\$ 30,000
Water Fund:	\$ 50,000	-\$ 197,053	\$ -	\$ 10,000		\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000		\$ 25,000
Unspecified Capital:		-\$ 75,000	\$ -			\$ -			\$ -
Payroll Liability Non-capital Reserve Fund:	\$ -		\$ -	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 150,000
MPP Refund :			\$ 42,981			\$ 42,981			\$ 42,981
Health and Wellness:	\$ -		\$ 12,219			\$ 12,219			\$ 12,219
	<u>\$ 1,290,000</u>	<u>-\$ 1,415,363</u>	<u>\$ 1,407,955</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,000</u>	<u>-\$ 30,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,387,955</u>	<u>\$ 1,115,000</u>	<u>-\$ 40,000</u>	<u>\$ 3,462,955</u>

A

Capital Budget

Funds	2029 Budget Projection			2030 Budget Projection			2031 Budget Projection		
Apparatus Fund:	\$ 600,000			\$ 625,000			\$ 800,000		
Satellite Hall No. 1 Fund:	\$ 75,000			\$ 100,000			\$ 125,000		
Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000			\$ 125,000		
Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000		
Fire Hall No. 1 Mortgage Bond:									
Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000			\$ 50,000		
Water Fund:	\$ 15,000			\$ 25,000			\$ 25,000		
Payroll Liability Non-capital Reserve Fund:	\$ 150,000			\$ 150,000			\$ 75,000		
	\$ 1,240,000			\$ 1,300,000			\$ 1,450,000		
Fund Balances	2029 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawals	Fund Balance 2029	2030 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawals	Fund Balance 2030	2031 Budget Additions	Planned Withdrawals	Fund Balance 2031 (less purchases)
Apparatus Fund:	\$ 600,000		\$ 2,304,994	\$ 625,000	-\$ 2,800,000	\$ 129,994	\$ 800,000		\$ 929,994
Main Fire Hall No. 1 Fund:	\$ 75,000		\$ 800,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 900,000	\$ 125,000		\$ 1,025,000
Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:	\$ 100,000		\$ 325,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 425,000	\$ 125,000		\$ 550,000
Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 250,000		\$ 797,761	\$ 250,000		\$ 1,047,761	\$ 250,000	-\$ 1,297,761	\$ -
Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000		\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000	-\$ 50,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 50,000	-\$ 60,000	\$ 70,000
Water Fund:	\$ 15,000		\$ 40,000	\$ 25,000		\$ 65,000	\$ 25,000		\$ 90,000
Unspecified Capital:			\$ -			\$ -			\$ -
Payroll Liability Non-capital Reserve Fund:	\$ 150,000		\$ 300,000	\$ 150,000		\$ 450,000	\$ 75,000		\$ 525,000
MPP Refund :			\$ 42,981			\$ 42,981			\$ 42,981
Health and Wellness:		\$ -	\$ 112,219			\$ 212,219			\$ 212,219
	\$ 1,240,000	\$ -	\$ 4,802,955	\$ 1,300,000	-\$ 2,850,000	\$ 3,352,955	\$ 1,450,000	-\$ 1,357,761	\$ 3,445,194

Executive Summary – Trustee and Administrative Expenses

The proposed 2027 budget for **Trustee, Administrative and Overhead Expenses** is **\$313,500**, an increase of **\$46,500 (17.4%)** over the 2026 approved budget of \$267,000.

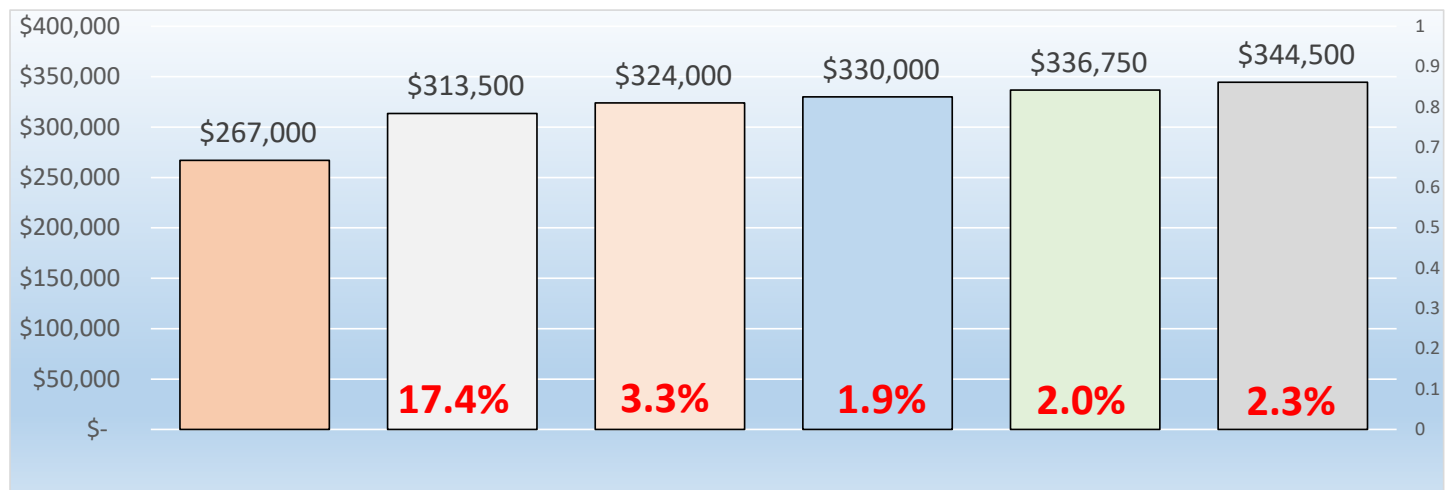
The increase is mainly driven by higher costs for **Trustee Meetings and Elections**, which rise by \$20,000, and **Insurance**, which also increases by \$20,000. Additional increases are included for communications, audit fees, conferences, advertising, labour relations, and other administrative costs. These increases are partially offset by the removal of **\$9,000 in Licenses, Leases and Rentals**.

Most other expense categories remain stable or increase only modestly. Following the larger adjustment in 2027, administrative spending is projected to return to more moderate annual growth of approximately **2% to 3%** through 2031.

Overall, the 2027 budget reflects targeted increases in key governance, insurance, and administrative costs while maintaining relatively stable funding across most other expenditure areas.

Trustee and Administrative Expenses

Description	2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection	2026 vs 2027
Advertising	\$ 6,000	\$ 8,500	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 2,500
Trustee Meetings and Elections	\$ 30,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 53,000	\$ 54,000	\$ 20,000
Annual Dinner for Fire Fighter Recognition	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ -
Audit & Related Fees	\$ 20,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	\$ 2,000
Bank Charges/Finance Charges	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 500
Communications - Phone	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 5,000
Communications & Miscellaneous	\$ 7,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,000
Community Relations	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 500
Conferences	\$ 5,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 2,000
Consulting Fees	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 29,000	\$ -
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,250	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Fireworks	\$ 5,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 1,000
Freight/Postage	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 60,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 86,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 20,000
Labour Relations	\$ 24,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 27,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 29,000	\$ 1,000
Legal	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,500	\$ -
Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-\$ 9,000
Office Supplies & Equipment	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ -
Professional Development - Excluded Staff	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Total Administration, Trustee and Overhead	\$ 267,000	\$ 313,500	\$ 324,000	\$ 330,000	\$ 336,750	\$ 344,500	\$ 46,500
Increase:		\$ 46,500	\$ 10,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,750	\$ 7,750	\$ 46,500
		17.4%	3.3%	1.9%	2.0%	2.3%	



Executive Summary – Operating Expenses

The proposed 2027 operating budget totals **\$665,000**, an increase of **\$64,000 or 10.6%** over the 2026 approved budget. The increase is concentrated in a small number of accounts, while most operating expense categories remain unchanged or increase only modestly.

The largest increase is **vehicle operating costs**, which rise by **\$30,000 to \$140,000**. This reflects increased fuel prices, maintenance requirements, insurance-related operating costs and the expense of maintaining a larger and more specialized emergency fleet.

Fire Hall utilities increase by **\$19,000 to \$60,000**, primarily reflecting the first full year of operating the new Main Fire Hall. The larger facility includes additional heating, ventilation, electrical, communications and building-system requirements.

Landscaping costs increase by **\$8,000 to \$16,000** to support the new hall site and ongoing property maintenance. Smaller increases are included for protective clothing, career clothing, SCBA, training, and fire station repairs and maintenance.

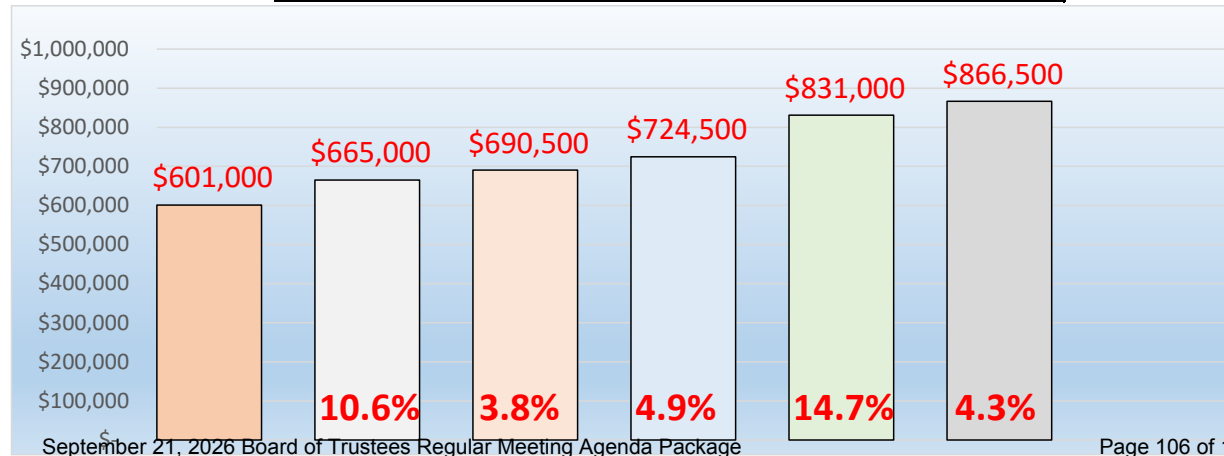
The budget continues to provide significant annual funding for core operational priorities, including **\$82,000 for training, \$75,000 for hydrant installation and repair, \$63,000 for protective clothing, and \$50,000 for fire station repairs and maintenance.**

The Extraordinary Expense and Contingency Reserve increases from **\$60,000 to \$78,000**, an increase of **\$18,000 or 30%**. This strengthens the District's ability to respond to major incidents, inflationary pressures and unforeseen operating requirements.

Operating Expenses

Description	2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection	2026 vs 2027
Clothing - Career	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 1,000
Clothing - Paid on Call	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,500	\$ 17,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,500	\$ -
Clothing - Protective	\$ 61,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 2,000
Computer, Hardware, Software & Supplies	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ -
Employee/ POC Recognition	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -
Equipment - Repair & Maintenance	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
Equipment Purchase - Small Tools	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,000	\$ -
Fire Department Record System	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Fire Prevention & Public Education	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,000	\$ -
Fire Hall Repair & Maintenance	\$ 49,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 52,000	\$ 55,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 61,000	\$ 1,000
Fire Hall Utilities	\$ 41,000	\$ 60,000	\$ 62,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 79,000	\$ 19,000
First Responder	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,000	\$ -
Foam	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Health & Wellness	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ -
Hydrant Install/Repair	\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Landscaping	\$ 8,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 17,000	\$ 18,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 8,000
Major Incident	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
Paid-on-call recruitment & Retention	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -
Radio Equipment Repair & Supplies	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
SCBA	\$ 20,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 23,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 1,000
Supplies & Sundries	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 13,000	\$ 14,000	\$ -
Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$ 80,000	\$ 82,000	\$ 84,000	\$ 88,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 131,000	\$ 2,000
Vehicle Operating	\$ 110,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 144,000	\$ 151,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 184,000	\$ 30,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 601,000	\$ 665,000	\$ 690,500	\$ 724,500	\$ 831,000	\$ 866,500	\$ 64,000
Increase:		\$ 64,000	\$ 25,500	\$ 34,000	\$ 106,500	\$ 35,500	
		10.6%	3.8%	4.9%	14.7%	4.3%	

Extraordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$ 60,000	\$ 78,000	\$ 81,900	\$ 86,000	\$ 91,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 3,000
		\$ 18,000	\$ 3,900	\$ 4,100	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	



Executive Summary – Wage and Related Expenses

Total wages and benefits are projected at **\$4.27 million in 2027**, up from **\$3.82 million in 2026** — an increase of approximately **\$446,600 or 11.7%**.

Wages increase by \$295,600, from \$2.87 million to \$3.16 million.

The largest change is Fire Rescue Service Management wages, increasing by **\$211,000**, followed by Career/Excluded/Casual wages at **+\$64,687** and Paid-on-Call wages at **+\$12,000**.

Benefits increase by \$151,000, from \$957,000 to \$1.108 million. Key increases include:

Pension costs: +\$66,000

HUB health benefits: +\$40,000

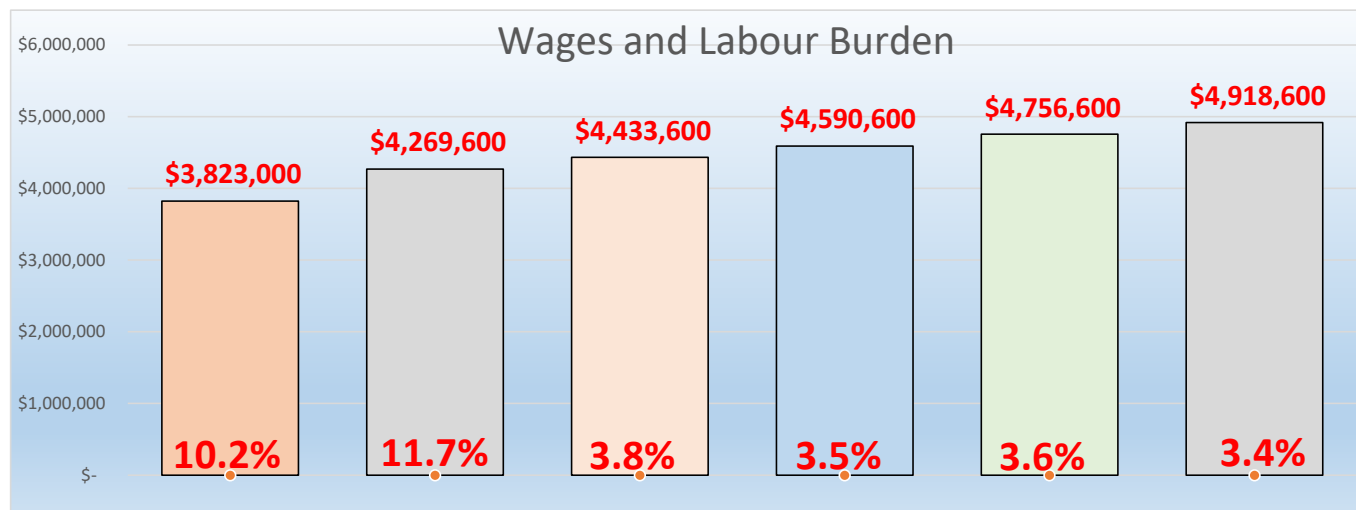
CPP: +\$19,000

Group Life, AD&D & WCB: +\$14,000

Employer Health Tax: +\$6,000

Wage & Related Expenses

Description	2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection	2026 vs 2027
Administration Wages	\$ 328,687	\$ 336,600	\$ 348,600	\$ 361,600	\$ 374,600	\$ 388,600	\$ 7,913
Fire Rescue Service Management Wages	\$ 376,000	\$ 587,000	\$ 611,000	\$ 635,000	\$ 660,000	\$ 687,000	\$ 211,000
Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages	\$ 1,871,313	\$ 1,936,000	\$ 2,011,000	\$ 2,093,000	\$ 2,179,000	\$ 2,265,000	\$ 64,687
Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$ 290,000	\$ 302,000	\$ 314,000	\$ 327,000	\$ 341,000	\$ 355,000	\$ 12,000
Total Wages	\$ 2,866,000	\$ 3,161,600	\$ 3,284,600	\$ 3,416,600	\$ 3,554,600	\$ 3,695,600	\$ 76,687
Increase:	\$ 297,283	\$ 295,600	\$ 123,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 138,000	\$ 141,000	
Statutory & Group Benefits							
Employee Allowances	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$ 161,000	\$ 165,000	\$ 173,000	\$ 178,000	\$ 183,000	\$ 188,000	\$ 4,000
Employer CPP Expense	\$ 81,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 101,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 102,000	\$ 19,000
Employer EI Expense	\$ 33,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000	\$ 2,000
Employer Health Tax & BC Medical Services Plan	\$ 59,000	\$ 65,000	\$ 68,000	\$ 71,000	\$ 74,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 6,000
Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension Benefit	\$ 354,000	\$ 420,000	\$ 437,000	\$ 454,000	\$ 472,000	\$ 483,000	\$ 66,000
Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	\$ -
Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$ 101,000	\$ 115,000	\$ 117,000	\$ 118,000	\$ 119,000	\$ 121,000	\$ 14,000
HUB Health Benefits	\$ 100,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 148,000	\$ 148,000	\$ 148,000	\$ 148,000	\$ 40,000
Matching RRSP	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -
Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$ 957,000	\$ 1,108,000	\$ 1,149,000	\$ 1,174,000	\$ 1,202,000	\$ 1,223,000	\$ 151,000
Increase:	\$ 56,843	\$ 151,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 21,000	
Total Wages & Benefits	\$ 3,823,000	\$ 4,269,600	\$ 4,433,600	\$ 4,590,600	\$ 4,756,600	\$ 4,918,600	\$ 227,687
Increase:	\$ 354,127	\$ 446,600	\$ 164,000	\$ 157,000	\$ 166,000	\$ 162,000	
	10.2%	11.7%	3.8%	3.5%	3.6%	3.4%	





New Fire Hall Project

Timeline, Spending Summary & Project Charter Overview

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Item 10.2



The New Fire Hall Project delivers a new post-disaster fire hall for our community, including a training centre and emergency operations centre.

This facility improves operational capacity, supports our firefighters and staff, and provides the space we need today—and room to grow for tomorrow.



PROJECT TIMELINE



SPENDING SUMMARY

Project Charter
\$13.70M

Approved Budget
\$13.62M

Direct Construction
\$11.86M

PROJECT CHARTER

Scope: New post-disaster fire hall, training centre, and emergency support space

Purpose: Improve service delivery, resilience, and operational readiness

Outcome: A modern facility with room to grow



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.
WELCOME TO THE NEW FIRE HALL!

September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package

We are proud to build for today and prepare for tomorrow's operations to come.

DIRECT CONSTRUCTION COST DETAILS

(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)

Insurance and Supervision	\$860.1 K	7.2%	
General Conditions	\$539.9 K	4.6%	
Civil works	\$1,148.3K	9.7%	
Concrete slabs and walks	\$1,402.4K	11.8%	
Structural Steel	\$478.2 K	4.0%	
Carpentry	\$1,189.1 K	10.0%	
Dampproofing & roof & siding	\$921.8K	7.8%	
Doors and windows	\$440.5 K	3.7%	
Flooring & Painting	\$520.1 K	4.4%	
Parking lot paving	\$269.5K	2.3%	
Electrical	\$1,475.2K	12.4%	
Mechanical	\$1,488.8K	12.5%	
Rainwater Storage	\$82.8 K	0.7%	
Misc. Specialties	\$226.6K	1.9%	
Contractor fees	\$821.0 K	6.9%	
TOTAL DIRECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS	\$11.86 M	100.0%	

September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package

DIRECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS



\$11.86 M

INDIRECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS



Architect

\$943 K



Owners Representative

\$241 K



Permits, Regulator & Utilities

\$191 K



Equipment, Furnishings, & Technology

\$202 K



Landscaping

\$93 K



Financing

\$86 K

TOTAL INDIRECT CONSTRUCTION COSTS

\$1.76 M

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS



\$13.62 M

Page 110 of 126

Note: Amounts may not add due to rounding.

OUR NEW FIRE HALL

Built for today. Ready for tomorrow.

PROJECT EXPERIENCE



STRONG PROJECT OVERSIGHT

Design and permitting took longer than anticipated, but strong owner representation and effective project management helped control costs and keep the design aligned with local requirements.



FLEXIBLE, INNOVATIVE DELIVERY

MKM Projects brought a flexible and innovative approach to materials selection and construction phasing, helping the project adapt efficiently as work progressed.



OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Fire Chief remained actively involved throughout the project, providing operational and logistical insight from planning through construction.



FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS

Financing costs were lower than expected as interest rates eased during construction, while favourable weather supported steady progress.

BENEFITS TO OUR COMMUNITY



STATE-OF-THE-ART TRAINING CENTRE

Modern, purpose-built space will support realistic, year-round training and help firefighters maintain critical skills close to home.



FASTER, SAFER RESPONSE

An efficient operational layout will help crews mobilize quickly while supporting safer movement of people, apparatus and equipment.



ROOM TO GROW

Flexible spaces and added capacity will allow the fire service to adapt as our community, equipment and emergency-response needs evolve.



BETTER SUPPORT FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Improved work, training and support areas will strengthen readiness, teamwork and firefighter well-being.



A RESILIENT COMMUNITY ASSET

A durable, modern facility will serve the community for decades and strengthen local emergency preparedness.



September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package

SAFER. STRONGER. READY FOR THE FUTURE.

A



**Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
Fire Hall No. 1 Facility Rental
455 Lower Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2P6**

2026 Rental Rates

Board Room: \$70 per half day (4 hours or less)
 \$125 per full day

Training Room: \$140 per half day (4 hours or less)
 \$260 per full day

\$25 Cleaning Deposit (when required)

Facility booking requests should be submitted by email to:
sshugar@saltspringfire.com



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) Staff Report

Date: September 1, 2026
 Subject: Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy AG-4103-07 - Update
 To: Board of Trustees
 From: Rodney Dieleman, CAO

Background

The Strategic Planning and Policy Development Committee is undertaking a structured 12-month policy modernization program to ensure all District policies are current, consistent, legally compliant, and aligned with Board governance best practices. The policy update project includes a complete master policy register and standardizing policy templates.

Summary of Changes between the Current Policy (AG-4103-06) and the Proposed Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy (AG-4103-07)

The proposed Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy (AG-4103-07) replaces the existing Communications and Marketing Committee Terms of Reference Policy (AG-4103-06) and modernizes the Committee's mandate, governance framework, and operating procedures. The proposed policy broadens the Committee's role beyond communications and marketing to include community engagement, stakeholder relations, governance, transparency, and strategic communications while aligning the policy with current governance best practices and legislative requirements.

Topic	Previous Policy (AG-4103-06)	Updated Policy (AG-4103-07 Draft)	Summary of Change
Committee Name & Mandate	Communications and Marketing Committee	Community Relations Committee	Renames the Committee to better reflect its expanded focus on community relations, public engagement, stakeholder coordination, and strategic communications.
Document Structure	Basic Terms of Reference	Comprehensive governance policy	Modernizes the document using the District's standardized policy format.
Purpose & Scope	Not formally defined	Clearly establishes mandate and scope	Improves clarity regarding the Committee's role.
Definitions	None	Defines Committee and District	Improves consistency.
Membership	Trustees, public and ex officio	Substantially unchanged	Clarifies appointments and eligibility.

Committee Responsibilities	Communications and marketing	Expanded governance and engagement responsibilities	Broadens advisory responsibilities.
Communications Activities	Specific publications	Flexible digital and outreach focus	Future-proof communications.
Annual Work Plan	Not included	Included	Establishes annual priorities.
Authority	Implied advisory	Explicit advisory	Clarifies no independent decision-making.
Accountability & Reporting	Meeting and annual reports	Expanded reporting and records management	Strengthens accountability.
Meetings	Detailed procedures	References Meeting Procedures Bylaw	Removes duplication
Legislative References	2021 bylaw	2025 bylaw, FOIPPA, Community Charter	Updates legal references
Compliance & Enforcement	Limited	Comprehensive	Adds ethics/confidentiality expectations
Policy Administration	Limited	Expanded	Improves governance consistency
Review & Revision	Board discretion	Formal review	Establishes ongoing review

Recommendation

That the Board of Trustees approve Draft Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy No. AG-4103-07.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney Dieleman
Corporate Administrative Officer



DRAFT

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

Community Relations Committee Terms of Reference Policy

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Policy Number	AG-4103-07
Policy Category	Governance
Approved By	Board of Trustees
Approval Date	TBD
Supersedes	AG-4103-01; AG-4103-02; AG-4103-03; AG-4103-04; AG-4103-05; AG-4103-06

PURPOSE

To establish the mandate, authority, composition, and operating procedures of the Community Relations Committee, a standing committee of the Board of Trustees.

SCOPE

The Committee supports the Board by strengthening relationships with the public and community partners; enhancing transparency and public awareness of District services, decisions, budgets, and strategic priorities; and advising on communications, public engagement, recruitment, and information-sharing practices.

DEFINITIONS

“Committee” means the Community Relations Committee as established by the Board of Trustees.

“District” means the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

POLICY STATEMENT

Membership

1. Committee members shall be appointed annually by the Board following the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Committee shall consist of:
 - a. Up to three Trustees (including the Board Chair as an ex officio member)
 - b. Up to two public members with relevant expertise. Public members must be eligible electors or residents within the District and serve in a volunteer capacity.
 - c. Ex officio members: Board Chair, Chief Administrative Officer, and Fire Chief.
3. The Committee shall appoint a Chair from among the Trustee members.

Committee Roles & Responsibilities

1. The Committee shall develop and recommend policies and plans related to community relations, communications, public engagement, and information dissemination.
2. The Committee shall advise on communication practices related to:
 - a. Privacy and FOIPPA compliance.
 - b. Records and information management (in coordination with related policies).
 - c. Media, digital, and public communications.
3. The Committee shall recommend strategies to inform the public of District services, emergency response capabilities, decisions, budgets, strategic priorities, and major initiatives.
4. The Committee shall support communication through:
 - a. Website and digital platforms.
 - b. Social media.
 - c. Media relations and public notices.
 - d. Community outreach and inter-agency relationship building.
5. When directed by the Board, the Committee may:
 - a. Develop communications or engagement plans for major initiatives.
 - b. Assist with public information campaigns or consultations.
6. The Committee shall provide recommendations to the Board on:
 - a. Community relations and communications policies.
 - b. Public engagement and stakeholder coordination strategies.
 - c. Referred reports or initiatives.
 - d. Opportunities to improve communication effectiveness.

Annual Work Plan

1. Prepare an information insert for inclusion with the 2027 provincial property tax notice outlining District fire rescue services and capabilities, the proposed budget, and strategic plan priorities.
2. Host a community partner meeting at the new Fire Hall with representatives from the CRD, Islands Trust, School District, RCMP, Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations to discuss shared issues and coordinate activities.
3. Communicate opportunities for qualified members of the public to serve on District committees and the Board of Trustees, including the skills and experience being sought.
4. Provide recommendations to the Board on significant public advertising, notices, website content, and other external communications.
5. Develop and recommend website materials and improvements that clearly present the Strategic Plan, annual budget, financial documents, District services, and governance information.

Accountability and Reporting

1. The Committee shall report to the Board of Trustees following its meetings, as appropriate, on its activities, findings, and recommendations.
2. The Committee may provide recommendations to the Board for consideration and decision.
3. The Committee shall prepare an annual report to the Board of Trustees that summarizes:
 - a. Committee activities and work completed.
 - b. Key recommendations made to the Board.
 - c. Outcomes achieved or in progress.
4. The Committee shall ensure that its records, including agendas and minutes, are maintained in accordance with District policies and applicable legislation.

Meetings

1. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the District's Meeting Procedures Bylaw.
2. The Committee shall meet at least quarterly or at the call of the Chair.
3. An annual meeting schedule shall be established and published.
4. Meetings shall be open to the public except where authorized under the Community Charter.
5. Each member has one vote.

AUTHORITY

The Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Trustees and operates in an advisory capacity. The Committee does not have independent decision-making authority and may only make recommendations to the Board unless expressly authorized. The Committee operates in accordance with: District bylaws, including the Meeting Procedures Bylaw; Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) and the BC Community Charter.

DRAFT

COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

All Committee members shall comply with this policy, applicable District bylaws, and relevant legislation, including the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) and the Community Charter. Committee members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with established standards of ethical behaviour, confidentiality requirements, and the public interest. Failure to comply with this policy may result in actions consistent with District policies and procedures, including removal from the Committee or other appropriate measures as determined by the Board of Trustees. Unauthorized disclosure of confidential information, or the improper use, alteration, or destruction of records or information, may result in disciplinary action and potential legal consequences.

REFERENCES & RELATED DOCUMENTS

[SSIFPD Meeting Procedures Bylaw 2025](#)

[Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act \(FOIPPA\)](#)

Community Relations Committee Annual Plan 2026-2027

REVIEW AND REVISION

This shall be reviewed periodically to ensure alignment with legislative and operational requirements.

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Date	Approved By
AG-4103-01	December 7, 2015	Board of Trustees
AG-4103-02	November 20, 2017	Board of Trustees
AG-4103-03	June 25, 2018	Board of Trustees
AG-4103-04	January 20, 2020	Board of Trustees
AG-4103-05	May 17, 2021	Board of Trustees
AG-4103-06	September 16, 2024	Board of Trustees



Community Relations Committee

2026–2027 Draft Annual Plan

Clear public communication, stronger community partnerships and improved access to District information.

2026

2027

COMMUNICATE
CONNECT
ENGAGE



Five priorities make the plan visible

5
practical
commitments
across the year

PRIORITY		PUBLIC VALUE	WHEN
01	2027 tax notice insert	Services, capabilities, budget and strategic priorities	Winter 2026–27
02	Community partner meeting	Shared community issues and better coordination at the new Fire Hall	Fall 2026
03	Public recruitment	Clear opportunities and expectations for public service as a Trustee or Committee Member.	As required
04	Public communications	Advice on major advertisements, notices and web content	Ongoing
05	Website improvements	Improved access to plans, budgets, financials and public information	2026–27



Community Relations Committee Workplan Delivery Calendar

Spring 2027

Bring partners together

Host the CRD, Islands Trust, School District, RCMP, Chamber and other organizations at the new Fire Hall.

THROUGH 2026–27

Make information easier to find

Improve website navigation and access to strategic, financial and public materials.

WINTER 2026–27

Put key facts in residents' hands

Prepare the 2027 Ministry of Finance property tax insert on services, capacity, budget and priorities.

ONGOING / AS NEEDED

Support timely participation

Advise on major communications and promote committee and trustee opportunities.

The plan combines scheduled milestones with year-round communication support.



What success should feel like to the community

01 Better understanding

Residents better understand District services, the budget and strategic priorities.

02 Improved access

People can find plans, financial documents and public information more quickly.

03 Stronger relationships

Community organizations have clearer connections and better coordination with the District.

04 More public participation

Qualified community members see pathways to contribute through committees and the Board.

DRAFT

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

BYLAW NO. 163

A Bylaw for levying taxes on the land and improvements within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District for fire protection purposes.

The Trustees of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District in open meeting assembled, ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1. The sum of six million, three hundred and thirty six thousand, one hundred dollars (\$6,336,100) is required by the Improvement District for fire protection purposes in the year 2027.
2. A tax at a rate determined to be necessary to raise the aforesaid sum is hereby levied for the year 2027 on all land and improvements as defined in the School Act, within the Improvement District in accordance with section 711 of the Local Government Act.
3. The said taxes shall be due and payable as provided in the Taxation (Rural Area) Act and if delinquent shall bear interest at the rate set out under the Taxation (Rural Area) Act until paid or recovered.
4. This bylaw may be cited as the "Fire Protection Taxation Bylaw 2027".

INTRODUCED and given first reading by the Trustees on the 21st day of September, 2026.

RECONSIDERED and finally passed by the Trustees on the ____ day of _____, 2026

I hereby certify that this a true copy of Bylaw No. 163.

Roland Cook, Chair of the Trustees

Rodney Dieleman, Corporate Administrator for the Trustees

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

A

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
1		Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated	Consolidated
2	Income						
8	Tax Revenue	\$6,041,000	\$6,336,100	\$6,645,000	\$6,971,100	\$7,315,350	\$7,674,600
9	Total Income	\$6,041,000	\$6,336,100	\$6,645,000	\$6,971,100	\$7,315,350	\$7,674,600
10		6.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
11	Administration Expenses						
14	Advertising	\$6,000	\$ 8,500	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
15	Trustee Meetings and Elections	\$30,000	\$ 50,000	\$51,000	\$52,000	\$53,000	\$54,000
16	Annual Dinner	\$8,000	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
17	Audit & Related Fees	\$20,000	\$ 22,000	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500	\$22,500
18	Bank Charges/Credit Card Fees/Telpay Fees/Finance Charges	\$2,000	\$ 2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
19	Communications - Phone	\$20,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
20	Communications & Miscellaneous	\$7,000	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000
21	Community Relations	\$2,000	\$ 2,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
22	Conferences	\$5,000	\$ 7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
23	Consulting Fees	\$25,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
24	Dues & Subscriptions	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,250	\$5,000
25	Fireworks	\$5,000	\$ 6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,500
26	Freight/Postage	\$5,000	\$ 5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
27	Insurance	\$60,000	\$ 80,000	\$82,000	\$84,000	\$86,000	\$88,000
28	Labour Relations	\$24,000	\$ 25,000	\$26,000	\$27,000	\$28,000	\$29,000
29	Legal	\$16,000	\$ 16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500
30	Licenses, leases & Rentals	\$9,000					
31	Office Supplies & Equipment	\$16,000	\$ 16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000
32	Professional Development - Excluded Staff	\$2,000	\$ 2,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$5,000	\$5,000
35	Total Adminstration, Overhead Costs and Trustee Expenses	\$267,000	\$313,500	\$324,000	\$330,000	\$336,750	\$344,500
36							
37	Amortization	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
38							
39	Operating Expenses						
40	Clothing - Career	\$18,000	\$19,000	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$21,000
41	Clothing - Paid on Call	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,500	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$18,500
42	Clothing - Protective	\$61,000	\$63,000	\$65,000	\$68,000	\$71,000	\$75,000
43	Computer, Hardware, Software & Supplies	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
44	Employee/ POC Recognition	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000
45	Equipment - Repair & Maintenance	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$15,000
46	Equipment Purchase - Small Tools	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
47	Fire Department Record System	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,000

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

A

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
48	Fire Prevention & Public Education	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
49	Fire Hall Repair & Maintenance	\$49,000	\$50,000	\$52,000	\$55,000	\$58,000	\$61,000
50	Fire Hall Utilities	\$41,000	\$60,000	\$62,000	\$65,000	\$75,000	\$79,000
51	First Responder	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
52	Foam	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
53	Health & Wellness	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
54	Hydrant Install/Repair	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$85,000	\$89,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
55	Landscaping	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$17,000	\$18,000	\$19,000
56	Major Incident	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
57	Miscellaneous	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
58	Paid-on-call recruitment & Retention	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
59	Radio Equipment Repair & Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
60	SCBA	\$20,000	\$21,000	\$22,000	\$23,000	\$25,000	\$26,000
61	Supplies & Sundries	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000
62	Training - Paid-on-call & Career	\$80,000	\$82,000	\$84,000	\$88,000	\$125,000	\$131,000
63	Vehicle Operating	\$110,000	\$140,000	\$144,000	\$151,000	\$175,000	\$184,000
64	Total Operating Expenses	\$601,000	\$665,000	\$690,500	\$724,500	\$831,000	\$866,500
66							
67	Wage & Related Expenses						
68	Administration Wages	\$328,687	\$336,600	\$348,600	\$361,600	\$374,600	\$388,600
69	Fire Rescue Service Management Wages	\$376,000	\$587,000	\$611,000	\$635,000	\$660,000	\$687,000
70	Career/Excluded/Casual Staff Wages & Salaries	\$1,871,313	\$1,936,000	\$2,011,000	\$2,093,000	\$2,179,000	\$2,265,000
71	Paid-on-call Members Wages	\$290,000	\$302,000	\$314,000	\$327,000	\$341,000	\$355,000
72	Total Wages	\$2,866,000	\$3,161,600	\$3,284,600	\$3,416,600	\$3,554,600	\$3,695,600
73	Statutory & Group Benefits						
74	Employee Allowances	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
75	Employee Group Health, Dental Plans & LTD	\$161,000	\$165,000	\$173,000	\$178,000	\$183,000	\$188,000
76	Employer CPP Expense	\$81,000	\$100,000	\$102,000	\$101,000	\$102,000	\$102,000
77	Employer EI Expense	\$33,000	\$35,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000	\$36,000
78	Employer Health Tax & BC Medical Services Plan	\$59,000	\$65,000	\$68,000	\$71,000	\$74,000	\$77,000
79	Employer Registered Pension Plan & Supp. Pension Benefit	\$354,000	\$420,000	\$437,000	\$454,000	\$472,000	\$483,000
80	Fire Fighter Employee Assistance Plan	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000	\$51,000
81	Group Life, AD&D & WCB	\$101,000	\$115,000	\$117,000	\$118,000	\$119,000	\$121,000
82	HUB Health Benefits (POC members)	\$100,000	\$140,000	\$148,000	\$148,000	\$148,000	\$148,000
83	Matching RRSP	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000
84	Total Statutory & Group Benefits	\$957,000	\$1,108,000	\$1,149,000	\$1,174,000	\$1,202,000	\$1,223,000
85	Total Wages & Benefits	\$3,823,000	\$4,269,600	\$4,433,600	\$4,590,600	\$4,756,600	\$4,918,600
86	September 21, 2026 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Agenda Package						Page 125 of 126
87	Extraordinary Expense/ Contingency Reserve	\$60,000	\$78,000	\$81,900	\$86,000.00	\$91,000.00	\$95,000.00

A

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District 5 Year Budget

New Line #		2026 Budget Approved	2027 Budget Projection	2028 Budget Projection	2029 Budget Projection	2030 Budget Projection	2031 Budget Projection
88							
89	Total Expenses	\$4,976,000	\$5,551,100	\$5,760,000	\$5,961,100	\$6,245,350	\$6,454,600
90	Bond Repayment Interest	\$263,095	\$410,349	\$400,378	\$389,967	\$379,099	\$367,752
91	Surplus Before Capital Expenses & Tranfers to Reserves	\$801,905	\$374,651	\$484,622	\$620,033	\$690,901	\$852,248
92							
93	Capital and Other Reserve Funds, Debt Repayment						
95	Apparatus Fund:	\$ 440,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 550,000	\$600,000	\$625,000	\$800,000
96	Main Fire Hall No. 1 Fund:		\$ 25,000	\$ 50,000	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$125,000
97	Satellite Hall No. 2 Fund:	\$ -	\$ 125,000	\$ 100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$125,000
98	Satellite Hall No. 3 Fund:	\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
99	Equipment Fund:	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
100	Water Fund:	\$ 50,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
104	Payroll Liability:	\$ -	\$ 50,000	\$ 100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$75,000
114	Bond Repayment Principle:	\$ 373,880	\$ 226,626	\$ 236,598	\$247,008	\$257,876	\$269,223
115	Total Capital Expenses & Transfers to/from Reserve Funds	\$1,013,880	\$1,236,626	\$1,351,598	\$1,487,008	\$1,557,876	\$1,719,223
117							
118	Change in Fund Balances After Capital Expenses & Principal Payments LTD	-\$ 211,975	-\$ 861,975	-\$ 866,976	-\$866,975	-\$866,975	-\$866,975
119	Non Cash Expense (Amortization)	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
120	Non Cash Expense (Bond) Repayment)	\$636,975	\$636,975	\$636,976	\$636,975	\$636,975	\$636,975
126	Change in Financial Position	\$650,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0