



**Celebrating Municipal Excellence**  
**2023 Nomination Form**  
**Deadline:** 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Nominee Contact Information	
<b>Name of municipality/ municipalities being nominated:</b> <small>(please include the names of all partner municipalities)</small>	Town of Eastend RM of White Valley No. 49 RM of Arlington No. 79
<b>Contact Name:</b>	Rosa Vázquez
<b>Contact role in project:</b>	Tourism and Economic Development, Town of Eastend
<b>Telephone #:</b>	(306) 295-3323
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 520 Eastend, SK S0N 0T0
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	eastend.rm49.rosa@sasktel.net
<b>Name of Nominated Practice or Project:</b>	South West Emergency Response Centre
<b>Date of Project or Practice Initiation:</b>	2014
<b>Date of Project or Practice Completion:</b> <small>(If ongoing, please indicate)</small>	<b>Ongoing:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Nominator Contact Information	
<b>Name:</b>	Val Bidaux
<b>Organization:</b>	Town of Eastend
<b>Position:</b>	Town Councillor
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	Town of Eastend P.O. Box 520 Eastend, SK S0N 0T0
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***Please provide as much detail as possible. Winning practices are posted in the Best Practices Library as a reference or resource to others. Nominations that clearly outline the practice and all steps involved have a higher chance of being selected for an award.***

## The Practice

### 1. What issue inspired the nominated project or practice?

The need for a new integrated facility to house Eastend and District Volunteer Fire Department and the regional EMS services, to better serve the needs of the region.

The neighbouring communities of the R.M. of White Valley No. 49, R.M. of Arlington No. 79 and the Town of Eastend are served by the Eastend and District Volunteer Fire Department and the regional EMT services.

The resources and equipment for Fire Department are provided by funds and resources from the three municipalities to which the department provides service.

The EMS services are provided by EMS personnel and equipment under the direction of the Cypress Health Region.

All equipment was housed in an aging fire hall which was built in 1940. It was not suitable for housing the equipment and did not provide enough space for training or storage. The ambulance which was purchased and equipped by the three municipalities was housed in a small garage off-site, with no facilities at all.

### 2. What has this project or practice done to address the issue?

After much research and consultation, it was decided to construct a new integrated facility designed to meet the future needs of the region. The Southwest Emergency Response Centre was built, a 52' x 124' Post-Disaster Emergency Services building.

A facility large enough to:

- House the fire trucks, the emergency response units and ambulance.
- Provide adequate space for storage of fire and safety equipment as well as space for storage of emergency medical equipment.
- Provide educational and training space for both the Fire Department and EMS personnel.
- Provide office and meeting space as required by both services.
- Provide washer and dryer equipment (for both ambulance and fire personnel), washrooms and locker space.
- Provide a fully functioning headquarters for the Emergency Local Disaster services in the event of a local or regional emergency.

## The Process

***This section should be the longest and most detailed part of your nomination. Include enough information, such as steps, resources accessed, and considerations to support a municipality interested in applying the same project or practice.***

3. Indicate who had a direct role in this project or practice:

- Municipal Council
- Municipal Administration
- Other

*Private sector*

4. What was the role of the municipal council and/or municipal staff in this project or practice?

The Councils of the R.M. of White Valley No. 49, the Town of Eastend and the R.M. of Arlington No. 79, determined that a new integrated facility was required to house the Eastend and District Volunteer Fire Department and the regional EMS services. As a first step, a Joint EMS Building Committee was formed to administer the construction and operation of the Southwest Emergency Response Centre (SWERC). The Committee met for the first time on March 5th, 2014.

Municipal staff provided administration support, research and contact with tenders and construction companies to provide information to the Committee to make decisions based on current information.

5. Were other groups involved in developing this project or practice? If so, who were they and what role did they play?

After extensive input from the community's stakeholders served by these services and a detailed needs assessment. Based on this assessment, it was determined that a new and fully integrated facility was required to meet future needs.

## 6. What resources were involved?

This \$1.3 million project involved the tax revenue of the municipalities (which at the time was enhanced by the extensive oil production in the area), the in-kind contributions of the Town of Eastend, as well as the collaboration of the private sector.

The R.M. of White Valley No. 49 contributed 80% of the balance.

The R.M. of White Arlington No. 79 contributed 20% of the balance.

The Town of Eastend in-kind contribution included the lots needed to build and house the new facility.

Donations were received from:

- Crescent Point Energy Corporation \$100,000
- Cenovus Energy Corporation \$15,000
- R.M. of Piapot No. 110 \$20,000

## 7. How was the project or practice developed?

This effort to build the new integrated facility was years in the making.

The idea for this integrated facility was initially formulated by the member municipalities of the Eastend & District Volunteer Fire Department in 2010, as a result of the obvious need for a new facility to meet the needs of the Region.

The R.M. of White Valley No. 49 initially called for Tenders for the construction of this facility in February, 2013. At that time, after opening Tenders, the R.M. decided all tenders were 'Over Budget' and the construction was postponed.

In 2014 an assessment of the old Fire Hall was done with input from the 3 Municipalities, the main issues at the time:

- The Fire Hall, originally built in 1940, was in poor repair and it was very expensive to maintain
- Space for all the firefighting and EMS equipment was inadequate
- No office, training or educational spaces were available
- The Fire and EMS personnel were disconnected and located separately in buildings lacking space or resources
- The ambulance was housed separately in a small building lacking any facilities
- There were no facilities for housing EMS personnel at the same site as the ambulance

A decision was made that a new facility was needed to bring emergency services equipment and personnel together to better serve the three communities.

The Town of Eastend, R.M. of White Valley No. 49 and the R.M of Arlington No. 79 established a representative Joint EMS Building Committee to administer the construction and operation of the Southwest Emergency Response Centre (SWERC). Their first meeting was held in March 5th, 2014.

Meetings continued during 2014 and 2015 and after careful consideration, on April 30, 2015, a contract was signed with Advance Design & Construction Ltd to build a 52' x 124' Post-Disaster Emergency Services building. Construction of the SWERC began in 2015.

The new facility officially opened on November 19, 2016, now:

- Has Four new Fire Department bays, a fifth additional that can be used for training exercises or to house an emergency response vehicle if necessary, and a separate Ambulance bay.
- It has adequate space for storage of fire and safety equipment as well as space for storage of emergency medical equipment.
- The facility includes a spacious mezzanine level above the fire bays, and a large upper conference room for meetings and training, providing educational and training space for both the Fire Department and EMS personnel.
- Provides office and meeting space as required by both services
- It has a washer and dryer equipment (for both ambulance and fire personnel), washrooms and locker space
- Provides space for a fully functioning EMO headquarters for the Emergency Local Disaster services in case of local or regional emergencies.

All decisions with respect to the continued maintenance, repair and operation of the structures is made jointly between the 3 Municipalities. The Council of each member Municipality appoint a representative to the Southwest Emergency Response Centre Committee, using the following formula: 1 representative of the Town of Eastend, 3 representatives of the R.M. of White Valley No. 49 and one representative of the R.M. of Arlington No. 79.

The Municipalities share the costs of the annual operating expenses of the SWERC:

- R.M. of White Valley No. 49: 50%
- Town of Eastend: 30%
- R.M. of Arlington No. 79: 20%

## The Results

8. What effect did this project or practice have on the community?

This facility provides a great sense of security to residents of the local, regional and neighboring municipalities.

It offers the ability to provide upgraded emergency services right across the region.

9. Was a formal evaluation done after the project or practice was completed? Please explain.

The Southwest Emergency Response Centre Committee meet regularly and evaluates the management and operation of the SWERC. Representatives report to their individual councils on matters related to the SWERC

Even though the SWERC was officially opened on November 16, 2016, the project is ongoing.

The Municipalities constantly work to improve the facility and equipment. i.e. in 2021, the R.M. of White Valley purchased a 20 KW Briggs and Stratton Fortress Standby Generator. This important addition to the SWERC makes it a perfect location for Emergency Local Disaster services in case of a local or regional emergency, especially in the case of an extended power outage.

The Town of Eastend purchased a new fire truck in 2022 with assistance of the R. M. of White Valley No. 49 and the R.M. of Arlington No. 79, that further improves emergency response services available to residents.

10. Describe any challenges faced.

The construction of this Response Centre was not without delays, caused by inclement weather conditions, the timing of trades people, and the process of working through the needs of the community to ensure this new facility would meet the requirements of future generations.

**Lessons Learned**

11. What lessons were learned and what would you recommend doing differently?

We learned first-hand how the value of small communities with limited resources working together can achieve something that each body alone could never imagine.

The cooperation of the Town of Eastend, R.M. of White Valley No. 49 and the R.M of Arlington No. 79, is a unique example of how local municipalities can come together to better provide for the needs, safety, and peace of mind of their citizenry.

The tax revenue of the municipalities plus the in-kind contributions of the Town of Eastend show a cooperative collaboration which could be a model for other regions within the province. This collaboration will better provide for their citizens and provides a methodology for the sharing of resources which will cater to the ongoing and future needs of the citizens.

















