

Joint Ops costs are 'out of control?', says Reader

(Re: Aurora signs off on next phase of \$26M Joint Ops Centre)

A few weeks ago at the invitation of the Town to the citizens, I attended an open house at the Works Department facility at 9 Scanlon Court where there was a presentation and information provided regarding the building of the new Joint Operations Centre. At this event, it was clearly presented that the estimated construction budget was \$19.8M and I received an information pamphlet indicating exactly that figure, plus \$4M for land purchase.

If memory serves me correctly, the \$19.8M figure is an increase of some \$5M, up from the original estimated budget of \$14.8M. And it has always been my understanding that the original cost estimate of \$14.8M was a total estimate of building and land costs. In The Auroran of March 6, I now read that this facility will now cost \$26M. This amounts to a \$6.2M difference, which I assume is for the land purchase.

But if the land purchase cost as indicated in their information pamphlet is \$4M, what is the increase of some \$2.2M for? I would appreciate a little clarification on this point as I'm sure other Aurora taxpayers might. It would appear to me that perhaps costs are out of control.

William Rogers
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(Editor's Note: In the video presentation, the balance was attributed to engineering costs to address topographical issues on the new site)