GRAND FORKS, ND (WDAZ)—As crews plan to tear down Altru's main clinic, a replacement hospital is in the works, but it comes at a price.

It's a 250 million dollar project.

"It'll be a combination of debt, cash reserves and philanthropy," said Chief Financial Officer Dwight Thompson.

Those planning the hospital hope it will meet the needs of the aging Baby Boomer population.

"Over the next 20 years is going to be a rapid increase in that population and subsequently an increase in the needs that we have for healthcare services," said CEO Dave Molmen.

The new hospital would also allow Altru to expand emergency services.

"Right now we have very adequate emergency rooms—they’re fully functional, but in the future, as we become more technologically advanced, those rooms wouldn’t be adequate—so we need to plan for the future," said President Dr. Eric Lunn.

The hospital would also have a focus on prevention.

"Prevention of disease is much cheaper and much easier to do than once you have the disease," said Lunn.
Lunn says this would also allow them to use the latest technology to improve the patients’ quality of life and keep them in contact with doctors.

"I don't know of any patient anywhere that wants to go to the hospital they would rather stay home and have a better quality of life," said Lunn.

It's unclear how big the new hospital will be, and depending on the design, it could be built on either of the company's campuses.

A 40 million dollar bond was issued this year that covers start-up costs for the facility.

The main clinic is set to come down by the end of the year.

They're hoping to open the new hospital in 2022.