



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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2024 BUDGET REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors, Committee of the Whole

File No.: BUD 1.0

FROM: Bonnie Seitz, Community Services Leader

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Fire Department Coordination Service – 2504

SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider and Approve Budget and Five-Year Financial Plan

Attachments:

1. 2024 Proposed Budget
2. 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the 2024 budget for Fire Department Coordination Service be approved.
3. THAT the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for Fire Department Coordination Service be approved.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All Except City of Prince George Weighted	Majority
All Except City of Prince George Weighted	Majority

SERVICE DESCRIPTION:

The Regional Fire Department Coordination Service coordinates efforts between seventeen fire/rescue agencies within the jurisdiction of the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George consisting of thirteen fire departments, three rescue agencies and the Mackenzie Fire Department.

The purpose of this function is to oversee the fire/rescue agencies to help ensure high service levels; that the standards are implemented, followed, and maintained; that required training and certification is readily available and affordable; to coordinate the purchasing of fire service equipment and apparatus; to provide for fire and life safety and fire prevention education programs; and to ensure emergency responses are coordinated safely, efficiently, and effectively.

In 2023, focus was on:

- competitive bid process for the Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department roof.
- taking delivery of the new Ferndale/Tabor Volunteer Fire Department frontline engine.
- assisting with completion of Hixon Volunteer Fire Department new fire hall construction project.
- coordinating and supporting the deployment of Regional District fire service resources to support Provincial wildfire responses.
- coordination of regional training opportunities.
- providing advocacy and representation at the local and provincial levels.
- applying for grant opportunities and managing successful grant applications to provide best value and ensure Fire/Rescue service interoperability.

- development and modification of delivery of public safety programs.
- assisting Fire/Rescue agencies with 2023 budgeted projects.
- Amendment of the Fire Department Co-ordinating Service Establishment Bylaw to remove the requisition limit.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

- ☐ Climate Action ☐ Economic Health ☐ Indigenous Relations ☒ Strong Communities
- ☐ None – Statutory or Routine Business

SERVICE DETAILS:

Participants: All Electoral Areas, District of Mackenzie, Village of McBride, and Village of Valemount
Requisition Limit: None
Debt Balance: None

SERVICE WORKPLAN:

- Identification and coordination of training needs on a regional level.
- Liaising with the Provincial Government and outside agencies to represent the Regional District's fire/rescue agencies needs now, and in the future.
- Coordination of the Regional Fire Training Officers' group.
- Coordination of bulk purchasing to realize cost savings and increase interoperability capabilities.
- Coordination of truck build for the new frontline tender for Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department.
- Taking delivery of the new Buckhorn Volunteer Fire Department and Beaverly Fire Rescue frontline engines
- Coordination of regional fire and life safety education programs.
- Continued implementation of strategic budget planning process with fire/rescue agencies.
- Review and update the Regional Fire/Rescue Operational Guidelines Manual.
- Plan for follow-up Inspections and Audit assessment for the volunteer fire/rescue agencies.

OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

	2023	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Total Expenditure:	\$ 209,427	\$ 318,689	\$ 109,262	52.1 %
Requisition:	\$ 156,250	\$ 257,689	\$ 101,439	64.9 %

BUDGET INFLUENCES/SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES:

- budget reflects day-to-day operations of the Fire Department Coordination Service
- 2024 budget includes the 2.25 FTE positions to support service level delivery

Respectfully submitted,

“Bonnie Seitz”

Bonnie Seitz
Community Services Leader

BS:mz