



REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

Main Office: 155 George Street, Prince George, BC V2L 1P8
Telephone: (250) 960-4400 / Fax: (250) 563-7520
Toll Free: 1-800-667-1959 / <http://www.rdffg.bc.ca>

2024 BUDGET REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors, Committee of the Whole

FROM: Meredith Burmaster, Manager of Community Services

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Emergency Preparedness Service – 2505

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

File No.: BUD 1.0

Attachments:

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

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report be received.
2. THAT the 2024 budget for the Emergency Preparedness Service be approved.
3. THAT the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for the Emergency Preparedness Service be approved.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All Electoral Areas Weighted	Majority
All Electoral Areas Weighted	Majority

SERVICE DESCRIPTION:

The Emergency Preparedness Service provides the operational capability of the Emergency Management Program, which has been established to fulfill the requirements of the Regional District under the *Emergency Program Act*.

The Emergency Management Program encompasses the strategic and operational development of the components of the emergency management plans that outlines the authority and responsibility to act in emergencies and communicate the policies and procedures to be followed. The program components are mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

In 2023, the Emergency Management Program focus was on:

- multiple activations of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to provide emergency response to wildfires throughout the Regional District from May through October including joint responses with neighbouring regional districts, municipalities and Indigenous Governments;
- hiring a second full time Emergency Services Coordinator to provide capacity in anticipation of additional responsibilities expected with new *Emergency and Disaster Mitigation Act*;
- offering FireSmart information and providing education visits on private properties;
- purchase and installation of EOC equipment funded by the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to further support the EOC located in the Public Safety Operations Building;
- ongoing development of the EOC's Activation Guide, Immediate Response Plans and support annexes;
- provision of assistance to the City of Prince George Level 2 and 3 Emergency Support Services (ESS) for wildfire evacuee support;
- provision of information and resources for community wildfire preparedness by attending FireSmart information sessions at locations throughout the Regional District including Norman Lake, McBride, Valemount, PG Home Show, Art Knapps, Northwood, BCNE and at two Rotary events;

- role specific EOC training for new EOC members and refresher training for existing EOC staff/members;
- participating in webinars and engagement sessions for the new *Emergency and Disaster Mitigation Act*;
- promoting and encouraging FireSmart by participating in local media interviews and extensive use of social media;
- delivery of ESS to families whose primary residences were impacted by fire; and
- navigating the necessary requirements of the Dore River Erosion Mitigation Project and grant requirements.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

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

SERVICE DETAILS:

Participants: All Electoral Areas
Requisition Limit: None
Debt Balance: None

SERVICE WORKPLAN:

- Continuing to engage, plan and prepare for the release of the new *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* and related regulations.
- Continued preparing, planning, and training of new EOC members for future EOC activations.
- Engagement and retention of EOC members to support activation and operational planning.
- Ongoing education and delivery of FireSmart and Emergency Preparedness to residents through community meetings, trade shows, site visits and extensive use of social media channels.
- Collaborating and supporting other local authorities in emergency preparedness activities.
- Applying and managing grant funding to support Emergency Management operations.
- Actioning deliverables of Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) grant application expected to fund a FireSmart Educator position and development of electoral area Community Wildfire Resiliency Plans.
- Initiation of the construction phase of the Dore River Erosion Mitigation Project.

OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

	2023	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Total Expenditure:	\$ 316,501	\$ 745,746	\$ 429,245	135.6 %
Requisition:	\$ 273,364	\$ 300,700	\$ 27,336	10.0 %

BUDGET INFLUENCES/SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES:

- 2023 projected budget is more than approved budget due to the receipt of grant funding and EOC task reimbursable expenditures.
- 2024 requisition increase is necessary to accommodate collective agreement wage increases, increasing standby pay to ensure availability of EOC members during wildfire season and having less surplus being carried over from previous years.
- 2024 budget is significantly more than the 2023 budget due to the approval of the Community Resiliency Investment Program's FireSmart Funding and Supports program grant and associated work involved with expenses under contract services.

Respectfully submitted,

"Meredith Burmaster"

Meredith Burmaster
Manager of Community Services

MB:sm