



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: Blaine Harasimiuk, Manager of Inspection Services and Sustainability Practices

DATE: November 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Inspection Services – 2901

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 Inspection Services be approved.
3. THAT the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for Inspection Services be approved.

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

SERVICE DESCRIPTION:

It is the mandate of Inspection Services to provide a high level of service to ensure the health, safety and protection of persons and property in the Regional District and to assist them to meet minimum construction standards as set out by the British Columbia Building Code and the Regional District's Building Bylaw.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act* and Building Bylaw 3239, 2021, Building Inspection Services provides the public with permit processing, plan reviewing, and onsite inspections for: structures, plumbing, heating units, buildings requiring a change of occupancy, demolition and moving buildings. Building Inspection Services is a source of information for public enquiries relating to construction standards and the British Columbia Building Code regulations.

The *Building Act* adds consistency in regulatory application across the province, requires all Building Officials to become qualified at the appropriate level in which they provide inspections and provide for evaluation of innovative proposals.

Most building permits are residential in nature with each new structure requiring approximately ten inspections, with re-inspections commonplace.

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:

- To maintain and improve on the level of service provided to the public, both within the office and through field inspections.
- To maintain excellence in service delivery through employee certification training and succession planning.
- To continue to assist and maintain relationships with municipalities within the Regional District
- To continue in the development of HUB Online for Building Permits.

OVERALL FINANCIAL IMPACT:

	2023	2024	\$ Change	% Change
Total Expenditure:	\$ 661,748	\$ 879,633	\$ 217,885	32.9 %
Requisition:	\$ 278,000	\$ 300,240	\$ 22,240	8.0 %

BUDGET INFLUENCES/SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES:

- Building Permit Fee revenue is expected to remain the same or be reduced due to ongoing high cost of materials, labour and high interest rates.
- Inspection Services Operating Reserve will be used to maintain a reasonable requisition increase over the next 5 years.
- Salaries increased between 2023 and 2024 due to approved Collective Agreement (2022 to 2024) in 2023. No new positions are planned in 2024.
- The 2023 grant revenue shows funds (\$132,000) received and an expenditure to transfer funds back into the Inspection Services Operating Reserve. The original funds were used in 2022 related to commissioning property and application tracking software for Development Services (HUB Online).
- HUB Online has been developed with a portal to submit building permit applications. Building Inspection Services will continue to assist with funding for developing HUB Online to include processes to approve land use, electronic plan reviews and electronic file management. Funding of this project will be allocated from the Operational Reserve.
- New monitors and software being purchased allows Building Inspection Services to perform electronic plan reviews.
- The 2024 expense listed on budget line number 41401 for \$262,470 represents a temporary transfer to Planning Services (4001) to assist with the expenses of the Disaster Risk Assessment project until full grant funding is received in 2025. In 2025, the grant fund will be transferred back to Inspection Services and be reallocated back to the Operational Reserve.

Respectfully submitted,

“Blaine Harasimiuk”

Blaine Harasimiuk
Manager of Inspection Services and Sustainability Practices

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