



# REGIONAL DISTRICT of Fraser-Fort George

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## REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors File No: VAL 1.2

FROM: Melanie Perrin, Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

DATE: July 31, 2024

SUBJECT: Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024

SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider Requisition Limit Increase

Attachments:

1. Consolidated Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990
  2. Proposed Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024
- Previous Reports: Item No. 9.2.1, October 2018

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. THAT the report dated July 31, 2024, regarding “Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024” be received for information.
2. THAT Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 be now introduced and read a first time.
3. THAT Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 be given second and third readings.
4. THAT participating area approval be authorized to be given by director and municipal consent pursuant to Sections 346 and 347 of the *Local Government Act*.

ENTITLEMENT	HOW VOTE COUNTED
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority
All 1 Director/1 vote	Majority

**ISSUE(S):**

The Valemount and District Fire Protection Service has been operating at its maximum requisition limit of \$203,880 since 2019. During the 2023 budget process, Public Safety Administration and the Valemount Fire Chief identified that the current requisition limit for this service is insufficient to provide appropriate funds to meet existing needs of the fire protection service. Budget pressures from inflation, capital purchase requirements, and asset management have resulted in the current requisition amount not providing sustainable funding for the fire protection service in order to maintain current service levels.

As presented in the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan for Valemount and District Fire Protection, an increase in requisition of 25% in 2025 is needed to support service delivery. Public Safety Administration is recommending that the Board consider adjusting the requisition by 25% to support the approved 5-year financial plan.

The Board is being asked to consider giving first, second and third readings to Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 and authorizing participating area approval be given by director and municipal consent to allow for a 25% increase to the maximum allowable limit that could be requisitioned for the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service.

### RELEVANT POLICIES:

1. Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990
  - establishes the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service for the Regional District
2. *Local Government Act*, s. 346 and 347
  - allows for participating area approval by consent of a municipal council; and
  - allows for participating area approval by consent of an electoral area director
3. Regional District Establishing Bylaw Approval Exemption Regulation 113/2007
  - authorizes a requisition increase to a maximum of 25% over a five-year period without the requirement of approval of the Inspector of Municipalities

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

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

### SERVICE RELEVANCE:

In 1983, the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service was established. The fire department provides fire protection to the Village of Valemount and a portion of Electoral Area H surrounding the Village. Under Supplementary Letters Patent, the Regional District acquired the function of fire protection with the Village of Valemount and a defined area of Electoral Area H as participating members. In 1990, the function was converted to a local service with the adoption of Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

In 2024, a residential property paid \$31.20 for every \$100,000 that residential property was assessed at. The proposed increase in the requisition limit would result in a maximum annual tax increase of \$50,970, which would translate into a residential property paying \$39.00 for every \$100,000 that residential property is assessed at, or a \$7.80 increase in property tax on a residential property for every \$100,000 it is assessed at (using 2024 BCAA values for calculation).

This would result in a maximum annual tax of approximately \$125.47 on an average home valued at \$339,897. Currently the maximum annual tax on an average home valued at \$339,897 is \$100.37.

### OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

In October of 2018, Valemount and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw 1163, 1990 was amended to allow for the requisition limit to be increased by 25%, from \$163,110 to its current \$203,880. It has been six years now since this last bylaw amendment. With the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service maximum requisition limit being \$203,880, it sits below the Regional District Fire Services 2023 average requisition of \$249,359. That, combined with the fact that Valemount and District Fire Protection provides services to complex structures such as hotels, commercial structures and critical infrastructure, has resulted in an urgent need to proceed with the bylaw amendment to increase the maximum allowable requisition. The current requisition does not provide for a sustainable funding source for the Valemount and District Fire Protection Service to maintain service levels.

The additional funds provided by an increased requisition will more suitably assist in providing funds to operate the fire department, provide for future capital expenditure needs and support asset management strategies. During the 2023 budget preparation process, an increase to the requisition limit was recommended by the fire chief and Public Safety Administration.

Under the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, a service establishment bylaw can be amended to increase the requisition limit without the Inspector of Municipalities approval if the increase is an amount less than or equal to 25% over a five-year period. The attached bylaw amends the maximum amount that could be requisitioned from \$203,880 to \$254,850 (a 25% increase).

The participants in the Valemout and District Fire Protection Service Area include the Village of Valemout and a portion of Electoral Area H. Participant consent from the Village of Valemout Council and the Electoral Area H Director will be required prior to bylaw adoption.

If participant consent is received, Valemout and District Fire Protection Local Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1163, 1990, Amendment Bylaw No. 3365, 2024 will be returned to the Board for consideration of adoption.

### **DECISION OPTIONS:**

1. Approve recommendations.
  - Consent packages will be provided to service participants
  - Once consent is received and the bylaw is adopted, the Valemout and District Fire Protection Service will be able to continue to operate at required service levels and provide for future increases to operating costs and capital replacement needs

#### Other Options:

- a. Do not approve recommendations:
  - requisition limit will not be increased
  - capital replacement needs may not be met
  - current service levels may not be able to be maintained
  - bylaw cannot be considered further
- b. Postpone consideration of a second reading if additional information is required
  - bylaw may not be adopted in time for the 2025 budget process

### **COMMENTS:**

Approval of the amending bylaw will allow for an increase to the requisition limit to support the continued operation of the Valemout and District Fire Protection Service at the current service level and to allow for sufficient funds for operations and capital improvements where necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

“Melanie Perrin”

Melanie Perrin  
Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

MP:mz