



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

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REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors

FROM: Melanie Perrin, Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

DATE: March 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Ness Lake Fire Protection Service – Frontline Engine Purchase

SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider Capital Budget Amendment
Attachments:
 1. 2026 Ness Lake Fire Protection Budget
 2. Policy RD-03-09 - Procurement of Goods and Services
Previous Reports: None

File No.: NES 1.1

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report dated March 5, 2026 regarding “Ness Lake Fire Protection Service – Frontline Engine Purchase” be received for information.
2. THAT the 2026 capital budget for the Ness Lake Fire Protection Service (Budget 2410) be amended from \$100,000 to \$1,400,000 to allow for the purchase of the frontline engine in 2026.
3. THAT the 2027 capital budget for the Ness Lake Fire Protection Service (Budget 2410) be amended from \$1,177,000 to \$0, removing the purchase of the frontline engine from the 2027 budget.

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

ISSUE(S):

At its February 2026 meeting, Board approved the 2026 Ness Lake Fire Protection Service Budget and 5-Year Plan, which included the purchase of a new frontline engine in 2027. Due to longer delivery times and increased costs, Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department wishes to purchase a ready-built demo unit earlier in order to provide potential cost savings, while still meeting the needs of the department and the community. Fire apparatus manufacturers will, from time to time, build demonstration units that are used to showcase their product at trade shows. These units are then put up for sale. It is this type of unit that the Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department is exploring to purchase. This strategy will provide the advantage of a suitable truck at a reduced cost within a shorter timeframe.

The Board is being asked to consider amending:

- the 2026 capital budget for the Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department to increase the capital budget from \$100,000 to \$1,400,000 to allow for the purchase of the frontline engine in 2026, and
- the 2027 capital budget to reduce the capital budget from \$1,177,000 to \$0 to remove the frontline engine purchase from the 2027 year.

RELEVANT POLICIES:

1. Policy RD-03-09: Procurement of Goods and Services
 - to establish a consistent approach for the procurement of goods and services which ensures best value is obtained when spending public funds
2. Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Delegation Bylaw No. 3276, 2022
 - requires contracts over \$100,000 in value to be considered for approval by the Board.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ALIGNMENT:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous and Intergovernmental Partnerships | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strength and Adaptability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quality Community Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship and Climate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awareness and Engagement | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory or Routine Business | | |

SERVICE RELEVANCE:

Ness Lake Fire Protection is a local service and was established in 1987 and provides fire protection to the community of Ness Lake.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

At its February 2026 meeting, the Board approved the 2026 Ness Lake Fire Protection Service Budget and 5-Year Plan, which included the purchase of a new frontline engine in 2027. The proposed amendment is to increase the 2026 capital budget amount of \$100,000 to \$1,400,000, and to reduce the 2027 capital budget from \$1,177,000 to \$0 as a result of the purchase occurring in 2026.

The expenditure will be funded by reserve funds and short-term borrowing.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The purchase of a new frontline engine is required in order to meet the Fire Underwriters Survey criteria and to maintain the insurance grade rating for the community.

A number of ready-built and demonstration fire apparatus have been identified as coming available in 2026. The Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department wishes to act on this opportunity and purchase one of the available ready-built units.

The Ness Lake Fire Protection Community Consultation Committee supported the purchase of a new frontline engine through the 2026 budget consultation and approval process. The Community Consultation Committee has been re-engaged to discuss this new opportunity and supports the budget amendment that is being proposed.

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendations.
 - a competitive bid process to purchase a ready built frontline engine for the Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be entered into
 - the budget amendments will be captured in the 2026-2030 Financial Plan Bylaw being brought forward to the Board for approval at its March 2026 meeting.

Other Options:

- a. Do not approve capital budget amendments:
 - the ordering of a ready-built frontline engine will not proceed in 2026
 - the delivery of the new engine will be delayed until 2027-2028

COMMENTS:

The Ness Lake Volunteer Fire Department's current 2007 frontline engine is almost 20 years old, reaching the end of its service life as a rated frontline engine, and is due for replacement. Proceeding with the purchase of a ready-built frontline engine apparatus will meet the department's service goals, support the requirements to maintain the community's insurance grade rating, and provide an opportunity to realize good value for funds spent.

Respectfully submitted,

“Melanie Perrin”

Melanie Perrin
Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

MP:mz