



**REGIONAL DISTRICT
of Fraser-Fort George**

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REPORT FOR CONSIDERATION

TO: Chair and Directors

File No.: BEA 1.2

FROM: Melanie Perrin, Senior Manager of Public Safety Services

DATE: March 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Bear Lake Fire Protection Service – Frontline Engine and Wildland Firefighting Truck Purchase

SUMMARY: Purpose: Consider Capital Budget Amendment

Attachments:

1. 2026 Bear Lake Fire Protection Budget
2. Policy RD-03-09 - Procurement of Goods and Services

Previous Reports: None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. THAT the report dated March 5, 2026 regarding “Bear Lake Fire Protection Service – Frontline Engine and Wildland Firefighting Truck Purchase” be received for information.
2. THAT the 2026 capital budget for the Bear Lake Fire Protection Service (Budget 2401) be amended from \$909,500 to \$1,100,000 to allow for the purchase of the frontline engine and wildland firefighting truck in 2026.

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

ISSUE(S):

At its February 2026 meeting, Board approved the 2026 Bear Lake Fire Protection Service Budget and 5-Year Plan, which included the purchase of a new frontline engine in 2026. In addition to the purchase of a new frontline engine, the Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department has identified a need to include a smaller Wildland Truck in its purchase plan for 2026. The smaller unit would be used to support emergency response to wildland/urban interface fire events, providing better access capabilities to wildfire and grass fire events, as well as serve as a medical response unit and support unit for various emergency incidents.

The Board is being asked to consider amending:

- the 2026 capital budget for the Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department to increase the capital budget from \$909,500 to \$1,100,000 to allow for the purchase of the frontline engine and a wildland firefighting truck in 2026.

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:

The Bear Lake Fire Protection service was established in 1978 and provides fire protection to the community of Bear Lake.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

At its February 2026 meeting, the Board approved the 2026 Bear Lake Fire Protection Service Budget and 5-Year Plan, which included the purchase of a new frontline engine in 2026. The amendment is to increase the 2026 capital budget amount of \$909,500 to \$1,100,000 to allow for the purchase of both the frontline engine and the wildland firefighting truck in 2026.

The expenditure will be funded with reserve funds; no borrowing of funds is required.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

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

The purchase of a wildland firefighting truck will provide greater agility and access to emergency events that the larger fire apparatus cannot access. The smaller unit will also provide four-wheel drive capability, providing better access to emergency incidents where driveways are overtaken by snow and as well as to incidents that are "off pavement".

The Bear Lake Community Commission supported the purchase of a new frontline engine through the 2026 budget consultation and approval process. The Community Commission has been re-engaged to discuss the merits of amending the apparatus purchase plan, the Community Commission supports the budget amendment that is being proposed to allow for the purchase of both a frontline engine and a wildland firefighting truck in 2026.

DECISION OPTIONS:

1. Approve recommendations.
 - a competitive bid process to purchase a frontline engine and a wildland firefighting truck for the Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be entered into
 - the budget amendment 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:
 - only the frontline engine purchase will proceed in 2026, the purchase of a wildland firefighting truck will not proceed in 2026

COMMENTS:

The Bear Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Bear Lake Community Commission recognize the risk posed by threat of wildfire events to the community. While the purchase of a frontline engine is needed for structure fire events, purchasing a wildland firefighting truck will provide the benefit of having a unit designed to access wildfire events more readily. This unit will also provide additional capabilities and agility for the service area. Proceeding with the purchase

of a frontline engine apparatus and a wildland firefighting truck are in alignment with the community needs and will meet the department's service goals and support the requirements for the community's insurance grade rating.

Respectfully submitted,

"Melanie Perrin"

Melanie Perrin
Senior Manager of Public Safety Services
MP:mz