



building communities together

2020 Business Plan Bouchie Lake Fire Protection (1323)

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

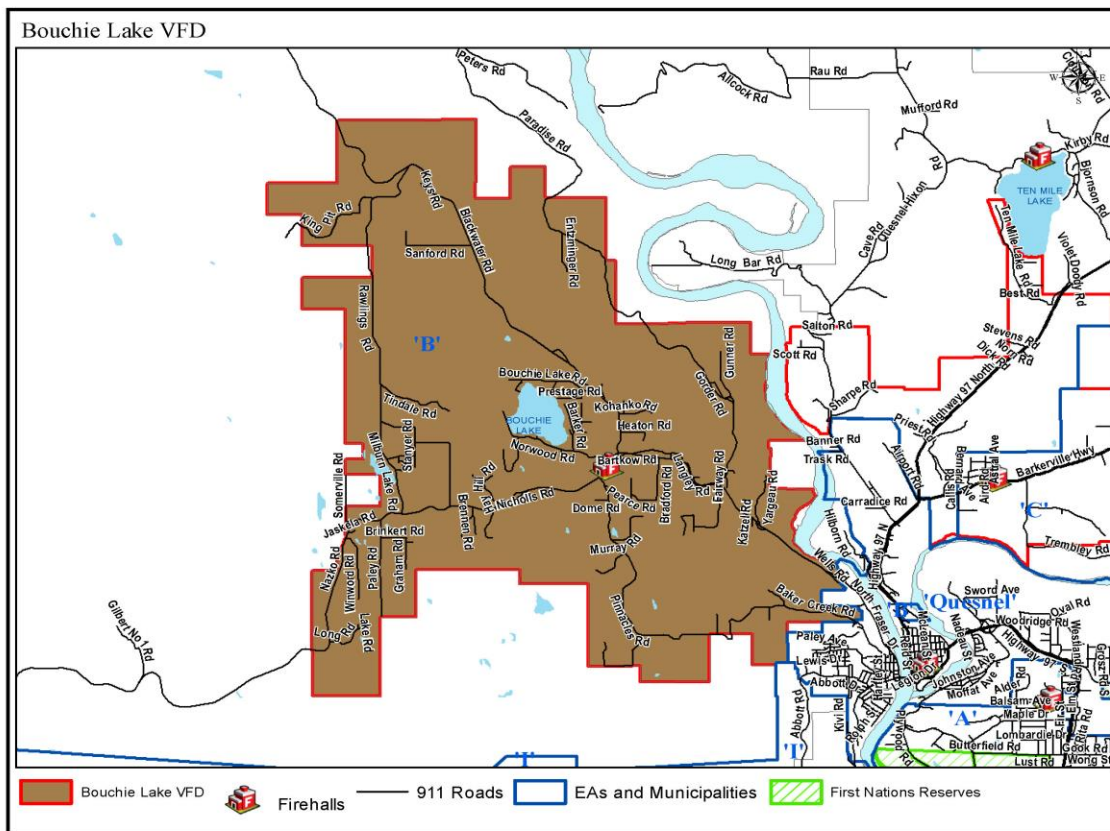
Department/Function Services



The Bouchie Lake Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaw No. 2539 (1991), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1976 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Bouchie Lake Fire Protection is funded by a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of land and improvements within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate that can be collected is the greater of \$99,500 or \$2.75/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Bouchie Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, first responder and ice rescue services within their specified area. They also have a blanket mutual aid agreement with all other CRD and municipal fire departments in the North Cariboo.

As Electoral Area B is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2020 Regional Goals

1. **Goal:** Facility Asset Management Review
Rationale: Hire a consultant to assess aging CRD owned facilities region wide and develop a replacement or repairs needed strategy to be incorporated into future budget planning.
Strategy: Use CRD administrative funds
2. **Goal:** VFD Operational Audit
Rationale: Hire a consultant to assess and report on current operational practices to ensure compliance with regulatory bodies and legislation.
Strategy: Use operational funds - \$5,000 estimate/VFD
3. **Goal:** Implementation of updated CRD Fire Department Operational Guidelines
Rationale: Staff will work with all fire departments to ensure that the new operational guidelines are set in place and adhered to and will meet all mandated legislation and policy guidelines.
Strategy: Staff to develop a proper guideline and monitoring mechanism.

4. **Goal:** Records Information Management System (RIMS)
Rationale: Staff will work with VFD personnel to implement and maintain records management for all fire department documents as per mandated requirements.
Strategy: Staff to develop a strategy for all records to be submitted to the RIMS at the main CRD office, and to ensure proper records are being updated and maintained.

2020 Bouchie Lake VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Build new fence on fire hall grounds
Rationale: Improve security on VFD property. (This was deferred from 2019)
Strategy: Use operating funds
6. **Goal:** Electrical work – Milburn Lake Hall
Rationale: Continue to renovate and improve the Milburn Lake Hall so that department can utilize for future training exercises and storage.
Strategy: Use operational funds - Estimate \$5,000
7. **Goal:** Purchase two sets of turnout gear and PPE
Rationale: Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan. Plan on purchasing two new sets each year.
Strategy: Use operational funds
8. **Goal:** Purchase SCBA masks, battery packs, cylinders
Rationale: Ensure SCBA equipment is upgraded and maintained to NFPA regulations each year.
Strategy: Use operational funds - Estimate \$4,000
9. **Goal:** Purchase a new canopy for Rescue 11
Rationale: Enable more storage capacity for First Responder gear and supplies to be carried in the bed of truck and will keep dry and secure.
Strategy: Use operational funds - Estimate \$10,000
10. **Goal:** Improve Radio Communications within entire FPA
Rationale: Currently there are several radio transmission dead zone areas within the FPA that have been identified. Staff will need to investigate what service providers can recommend.
Strategy: Use operational funds - Estimate \$5,000 - \$10,000

2021 Goal

Goal: Purchase industrial washing machine

Rationale: Meet WorkSafe and NFPA/ULC turnout gear cleaning requirements for the safety of responders by reducing exposure to harmful contaminants.

Strategy: Use funds set aside from 2020, and operational funds from 2021

Significant Issues & Trends

Issues: Recruitment and Retention; Proper Monitoring for Compliance; and Building Capital Reserves

The sustainability of small volunteer departments is being challenged not only by rapidly increasing legislative requirements and related costs but all the increasing administrative demands which accompany these requirements. The proposed 2020 audit of the internal operations of the VFD will allow staff and the Board to review the findings and prepare a strategy to ensure the department has the tools and support necessary to provide this service for the community in the safest and cost-effective manner while adhering to all mandated regulations and policies.

- **Recruitment:** The CRD will be working on administering a regional recruitment campaign in 2020 to educate the residents in all CRD fire protection areas on what is required of a volunteer fire department, the financial impacts of not having this service, the money saved in reduction of fire insurance for residences.
- **Proper Monitoring of Fire Departments:** Fire departments to be monitored to ensure compliance of WorkSafe, NFPA/ULC, CRD policies and Operational Guidelines. By having an internal audit of all CRD VFDs, staff and the Board will be able to develop a strategy on how to bring all departments up to industry standards and to keep our members safe. With this, there will be recommendations on how to ensure proper staffing levels to ensure support and the ability to monitor the departments.
- **Build Capital Reserves:** With the continual strain on current budgets, all CRD VFDs are struggling to maintain acceptable capital reserves. Staff must investigate options and ensure capital reserve yearly contributions are being maintained.