



building communities together

2020 Business Plan Deka Lake Fire Protection (1326)

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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

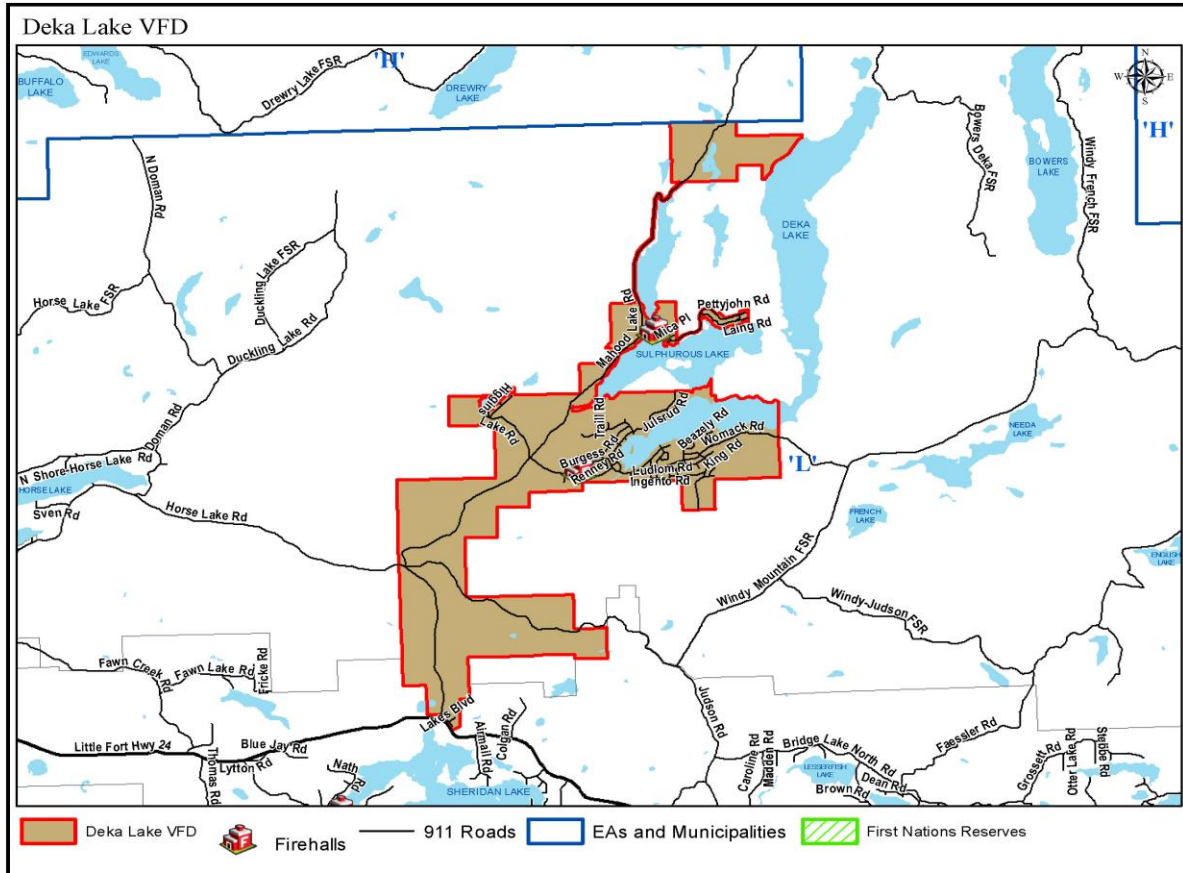


The Deka Lake Fire Protection Service was established by Bylaws No.'s 3377 (1998) and 3450 (1998), as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1982 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Deka Lake Fire Protection was amended in 2006 by Bylaw No. 4198.

A referendum was held in August 2015 to include the Sulphurous Lake fire protection area. That referendum was successful and the Deka Lake fire protection boundary was expanded as per Bylaw No. 4962. Funding is provided for by a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of land and improvements. The maximum taxation rate that can be applied is the greater of \$70,000 or \$1.61/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Deka Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and suppression services only, within their specified area.

As the Director for Electoral Area L is the only stakeholder, and because 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 Deka Lake VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Review Occupancy and Required Use of Sulphurous Hall
Rationale: Staff to work with Mountain Spruce Community Society and the DLVFD to determine what options there are for the continued use by both groups of the Sulphurous Hall.
Strategy: Staff to investigate and continue talks with both groups
6. **Goal:** Purchase used tender
Rationale: In 2019 it was a Business Plan goal to use up to \$100,000 to purchase poly tanks, to replace the rusted ones currently on Tender 11 and 12. The department has identified that this cost is too high and would rather purchase a used tender instead. Tender 11 and 12 currently are both aged past 20-year FUS compliance, one of which is slated for replacement within the next few years. A new engine is being purchased in 2020 also in order to meet FUS compliance. To allow time and help spread the cost between the purchase of the two required apparatus, it is proposed that the department purchase one used tender to be used until the new tender is purchased in 2022/2023.
Strategy: Use capital reserve funds (\$10,000 – \$15,000)
7. **Goal:** Bring DLVFD onto the 911 FOCC Dispatch System
Rationale: At the time the 911 Emergency Telephone System was implemented in the CRD, it was determined that due to their low call volume it did not warrant paying for the equipment and installation of the radio repeater tower work. They in turn utilized their own auxiliary members to conduct manual telephone call out to each of their members when an emergency page came from the Fire Operations Communications Centre (FOCC). Over the past several years, call volumes have gone up and their internal telephone fan out call system is no longer sufficient for prompt notification to their members. Having the 911 FOCC Dispatch System also keeps the dispatch online to assist with coordination with other responding agencies, records the entire call, and are able to assist with the Incident Command while on scene.
Strategy: Use capital and operational funds (approx. \$30,000)

8. **Goal:** Order new engine for delivery in 2020
Rationale: Staff and fire department members will meet early in 2020 to start working with Fort Garry to order a new engine. New apparatus purchase is necessary to maintain Fire Underwriters Survey compliance for home owner's fire insurance reductions.
Strategy: Use capital and lease funds
9. **Goal:** Resurface the parking lot and drive way at the DLVFD Hall
Rationale: The parking area and driveway at the hall need repair. Will look at installing a concrete apron at the front of the bays for longevity (\$7,000) in 2020. Will repave the parking lot and driveway in 2021.
Strategy: Use operational funds (\$7,000) for apron in 2020 - Repaving cost in 2021, also out of operational funding

2021 Goals

1. **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
2. **Goal:** Renovate Deka Lake Fire Hall to upgrade bathroom facilities
Rationale: Provide separate bathroom and shower for female members and improve men's room/shower. This was a 2019 goal which was deferred. The 2020 CRD Asset Management audit will identify this and possibly other renovations needed in order to meet WorkSafe and FUS/NFPA requirements for compliance.
Strategy: Use capital reserve and operational funds depending on cost

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.