



*building communities together*

## **2020 Business Plan 150 Mile Fire Protection (1327)**

*Kathy Ferguson, Regional Fire Services Supervisor*

***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.***

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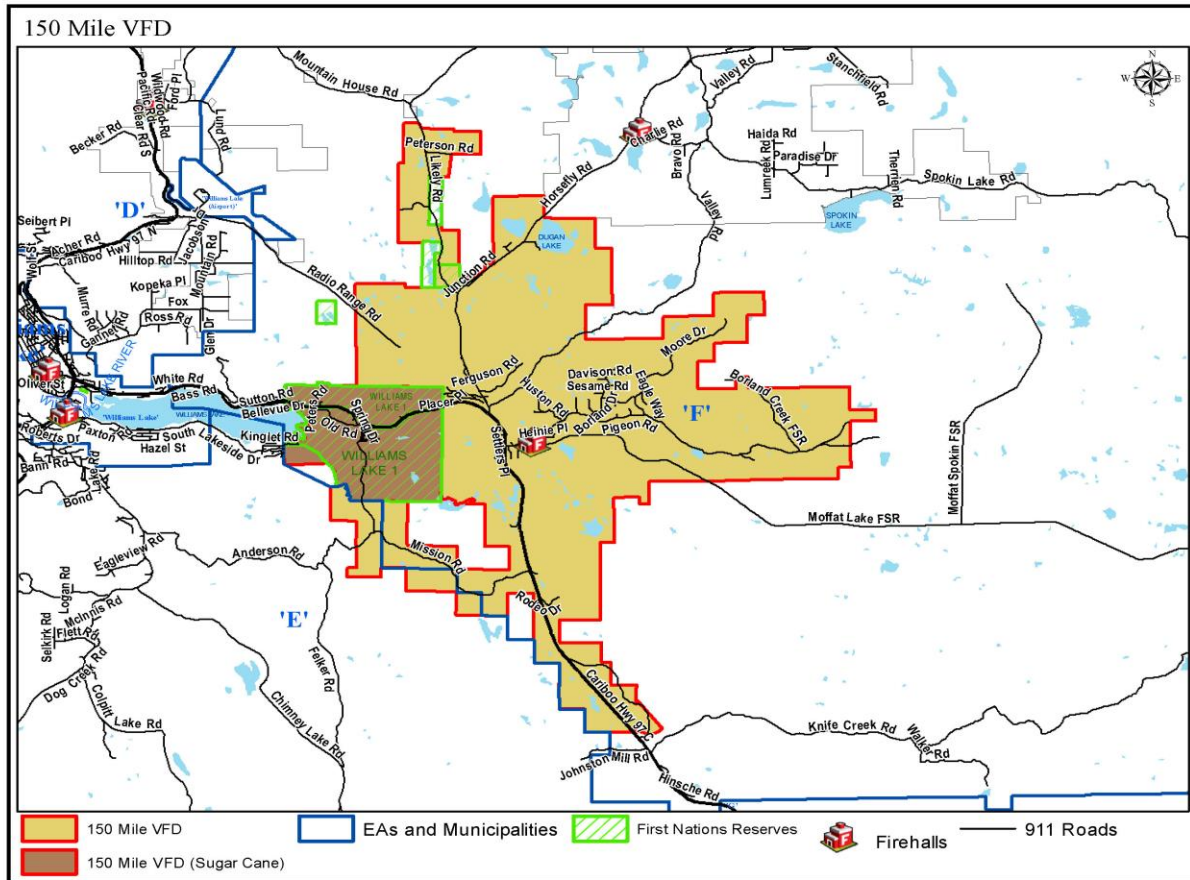
### **Department/Function Services**



The 150 Mile Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaw No.'s 3897 (2004), 3940 (2004), and 4088 (2005), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1982. 150 Mile 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 applied is the greater of \$125,000 or \$1.28/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The 150 Mile Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and first responder services within their specified area.

The Directors for Electoral Areas E and F are responsible for the governance of this function.



## Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

### 2020 Regional Goals

- 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
- 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 150 Mile VFD Specific Goals**

5. **Goal:** Training Grounds Construction and Maintenance  
**Rationale:** Continue to improve the construction of training ground live fire props and ensure funds are available for maintenance. Training grounds have proven to assist the department to meet their training needs and keep membership retention. Having the availability of the training grounds has also given the department the opportunity to provide hands on training to other regional district fire departments.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funding
6. **Goal:** Williams Lake Indian Band / 150 Mile VFD Hall #2  
**Rationale:** Partnership with the Williams Lake Indian Band to erect a second Fire Hall for the 150 Mile Fire Department operations onto WLIB Sugar Cane Reserve could increase fire protection capacity for all affected residents.  
**Strategy:** Negotiations for this initiative is ongoing. Propose to continue talks with the WLIB in 2020.

### **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.

### **2020 – 2024 Goal**

**Goal:** Purchase new Tender  
**Rationale:** Required to maintain Fire Underwriters Survey certification. Current apparatus reaches the 20-year replacement mark in 2020, however, FUS will allow, under certain circumstances, extra time for the replacement of new apparatus up to 5 years. The Department's budget remains tight even after the 25% increase in taxation in 2019. Staff

recommends that we set aside funds each year from 2020, to build capital reserves to assist in the purchase of the new Tender in 2024. This will allow more financial flexibility over the next few years.

**Strategy:** Purchase new Tender through a combination of Capital Reserves and Lease financing.

## **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.