



building communities together

2020 Business Plan Lone Butte Fire Protection (1329)

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.

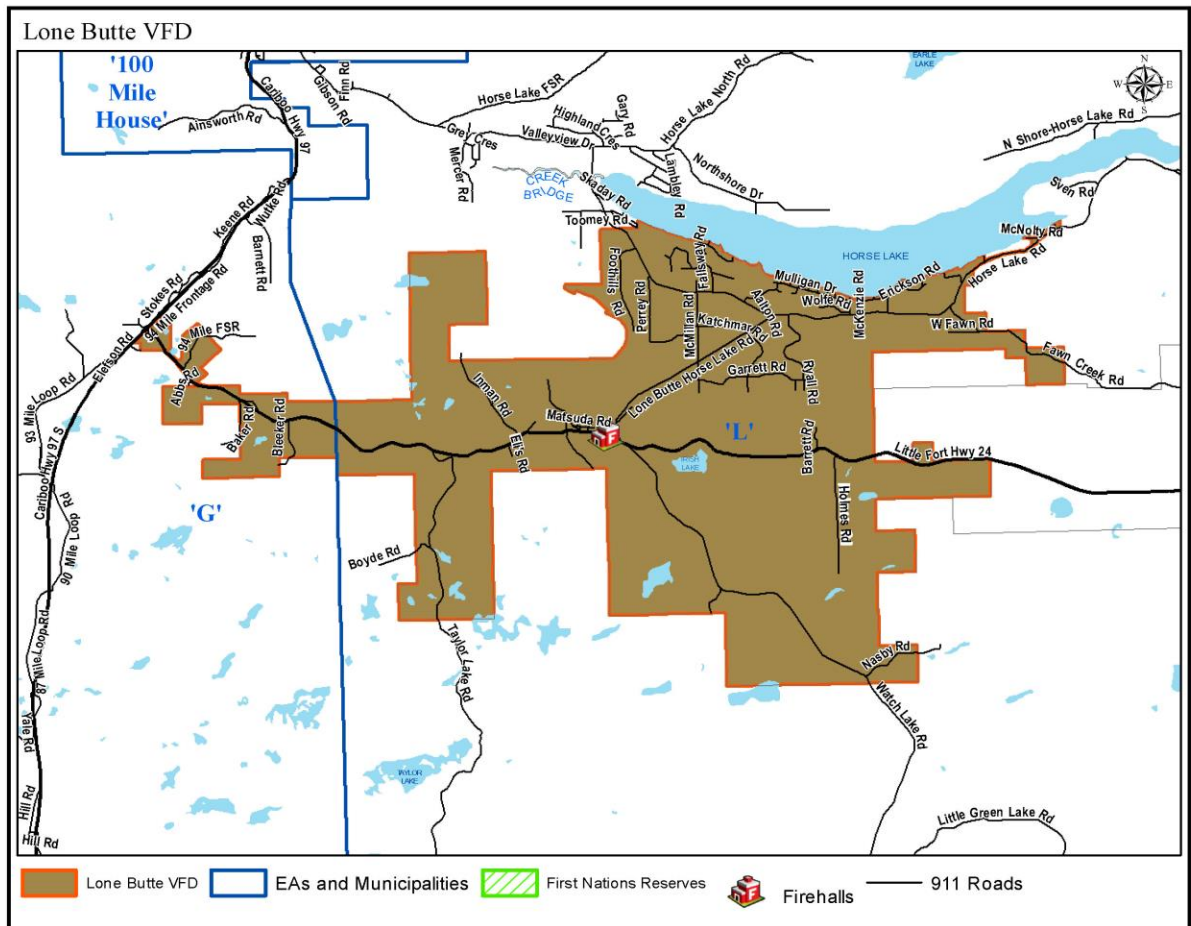
Department/Function Services



The Lone Butte Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaws No. 1583 (1983) and 2955 (1994), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1983 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Lone Butte Fire Protection was amended in 2008 by Bylaw No. 4414. Lone Butte 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 \$100,000 or \$1.92/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Lone Butte Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and suppression, first responder and auto extrication services within their specified area.

The Directors for Electoral Areas G and L are responsible for the governance of this service.



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 Lone Butte VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Grind, stain and chink the fire hall exterior
Rationale: The hall is a log structure and is subject to weathering. Re-staining will protect the logs and extend the building life. Chinking would help in insulation from the weather as the logs have cracked and shrunk with age. This log maintenance has not been done since 1981.
Strategy: Use capital funds (\$35,000)
6. **Goal:** Pave yard behind fire hall
Rationale: Currently the yard behind the fire hall is dirt. This leads to potholes and an uneven approach at the building slab. Paving will eliminate the potholes and cut down on wear and tear of apparatus and provide a level area for necessary training.
Strategy: Use capital and operational funds when they are sufficient
7. **Goal:** Purchase sea cans for training purposes and storage
Rationale: Develop accessible training opportunities to support skills development and maintenance. Order one for storage and three for training. (*Deferred from 2019*)
Strategy: Use \$18,000
8. **Goal:** Increase required training for VFD members
Rationale: Continue to provide member and fire officer training for Exterior Operations compliance and would like to work towards Interior Operations which requires further training to meet regulations for that level of service.
Strategy: Increase training budget to \$10,000
9. **Goal:** Purchase six sets of turnout gear/year for next several years
Rationale: Continue to purchase turnout gear each year to meet the NFPA requirement of a ten-year lifespan for all PPE including turn out gear. Current turnout gear is out of date or near the lifespan expiry date. Must purchase gear over the next several years to bring all members PPE to meet compliance.
Strategy: Use operational funds to purchase coat/pant sets (Approx. \$2,500/set) \$15,000/year

- 10. Goal:** Purchase SCBA
Rationale: To ensure the department meets NFPA breathing apparatus equipment compliance, the department will budget funds to cover the purchase of new SCBA and spare bottles each year. In order to outfit the new apparatus being delivered in late 2019, will need to order two SCBA packs for 2020.
Strategy: Use operational funds to purchase two new SCBA for 2020 (\$20,000)
- 11. Goal:** Purchase PPE – helmets/boots
Rationale: In order to meet industry regulations, all PPE must be within 10 years of age. Most of the current helmets and boots are past the life span. Over the next several years the department will have to order extra helmets and boots to bring all members up to regulation.
Strategy: Use operational funds (\$10,000 approximately for 2020), review for 2021 for more purchases
- 12. Goal:** Energy efficient lighting
Rationale: Increase energy efficiency in the fire hall by updating all the old lighting.
Strategy: Use Community Works Funds (\$15,000)
- 13. Goal:** Install gutters/snow stops
Rationale: Currently there are no gutters or snow stops located at the front of the fire hall roof line, which in the winter, ice build up is extreme and causes safety hazards. Would like to have gutters, and snow stops if needed, to rectify this hazard.
Strategy: Use operational funds

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.