



building communities together

2020 Business Plan Miocene Fire Protection (1332)

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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.

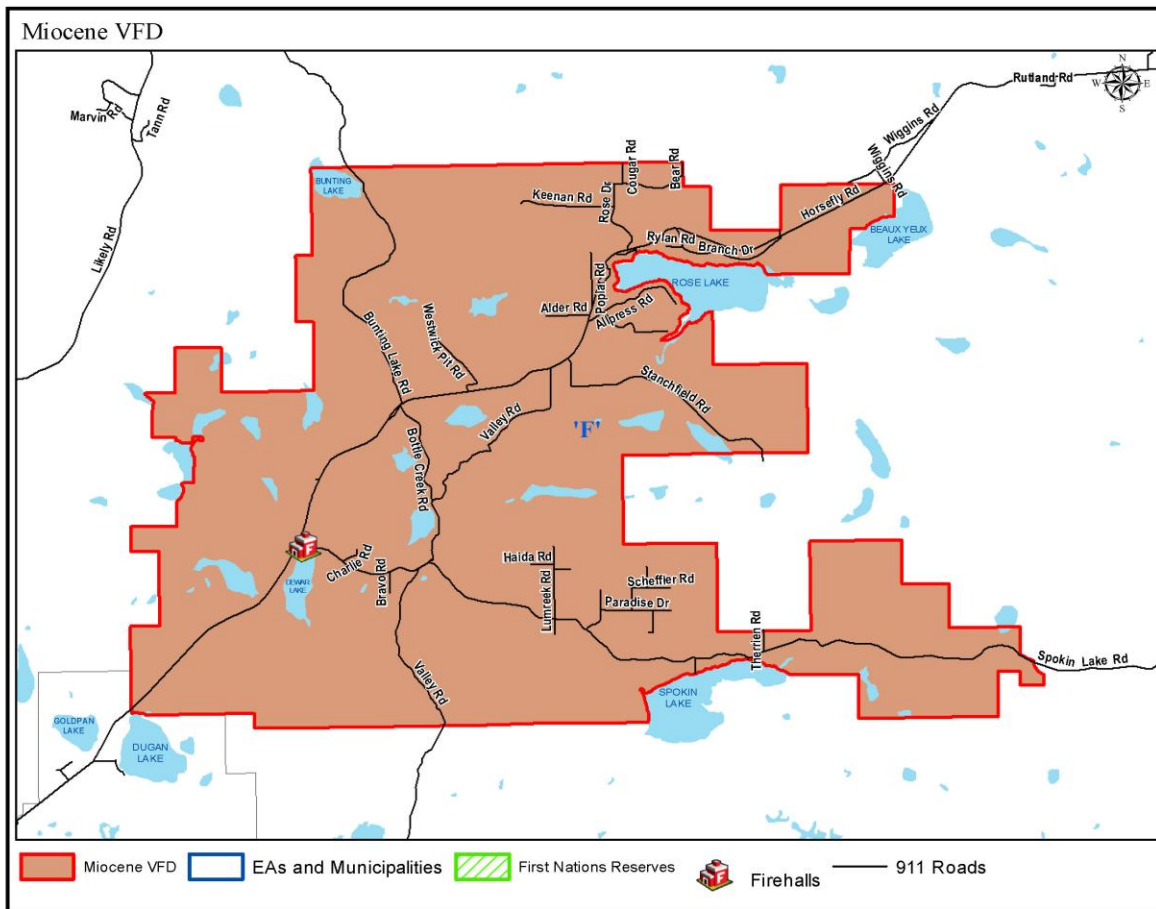
Department/Function Services



The Miocene Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaw No. 2809, was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1994 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Miocene Fire Protection was amended in 2007 by Bylaw No. 4300. Miocene 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 \$50,000 or \$2.71/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Miocene Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and suppression, and first responder services within their specified area.

As the Electoral Area F Director 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 Miocene VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Increase fuel and insurance budgets
Rationale: No increase has been made to this expense in several years.
Strategy: Raise fuel budget to \$2,000, and insurance budget to \$15,000
6. **Goal:** Increase required training for VFD members
Rationale: Due to newly appointed officers and a new Chief, members will need to receive additional training for their roles, adding additional costs for travel and instruction.
Strategy: Increase training budget to \$12,000
7. **Goal:** Finish hose drying tower
Rationale: In order to meet NFPA 1962 compliance for the care of fire hose, all hose must be thoroughly drained and dried prior to being placed in storage. One of the best and cheapest methods of drying hose is in a hose tower. When renovations were done at the Miocene Fire Hall, a tower was framed in the plans. The members would like to finish this tower so they can have an adequate drying location.
Strategy: Use operational funds
8. **Goal:** Fix bay doors
Rationale: Three of the four bay doors need to have their motors repaired or replaced, and proper sensors installed for safety.
Strategy: Use operational funds (\$1,500/door)
9. **Goal:** Install dry hydrant
Rationale: To allow department to have more available water source to keep current tank at hall full at all times. This hydrant would be located at the lake by the fire hall.
Strategy: Use operational funds

- 10. Goal:** Mutual aid with Horsefly VFD
Rationale: Department would like to enter into a mutual aid agreement with Horsefly VFD, to allow assistance between both departments in fire suppression and first responder assistance. The boundary would extend from the current Miocene VFD line east to encompass the village of Horsefly and not any further east.
Strategy: Staff to investigate in 2020
- 11. Goal:** Review of west fire protection area (FPA) boundary
Strategy: The department would like to investigate the possibility of realigning the western boundary of their FPA and take over a portion of the 150 Mile VFD area, which would offer more water accessibility and faster coverage for those properties located on the Horsefly Road.
Strategy: Staff to investigate in 2020
- 12. 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. Need to order two SCBA packs for 2020 and 2021.
Strategy: Use operational funds to purchase two new SCBA for 2020 (\$20,000)
- 13. Goal:** Relocate training grounds and parking area
Rationale: The current parking area is too close to the refueling station and bay doors which is a safety hazard to both personal vehicles and members entering the hall. There is a large area that has been recently cleared on the other side of the hall which could be used for parking but needs to be properly leveled and compacted or paved. This could accommodate the parking and also be used as a training area.
Strategy: Use operational funding
- 14. Goal:** Purchase a compressor and cascade system
Rationale: The department requires a new compressor system to fill their SCBA cylinders. Current fill station is slow and with the upgrades to the higher pressure tanks, a new compressor is needed.
Strategy: Staff to work with department to determine specific size needed. Use operational funding (Up to \$25,000)

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.