



**Date:** 05/06/2020

**To:** Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

**And To:** John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services

**Date of Meeting:** Cariboo Regional District Board\_Jun19\_2020

**File:** 7200-01

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## Short Summary:

Request from Greeny Lake Volunteer Fire Department

## Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## Memorandum:

A request from the Greeny Lake VFD was sent to the CRD for consideration of feasibility funds to determine if they would qualify to become a CRD owned/managed fire department. Protective Services and financial staff studied the documents provided to get an overview on what would be required to move this process forward, or to defer. A big picture approach was used and looked at three key indicators which are membership, apparatus, and financials.

In the case of membership, they have listed a roster of sixteen (16) which would meet the minimum requirement for department sizing. This is assuming that all members are active in training and response. The department currently holds six pieces of apparatus. The newest engine is listed as 1996 pump. This would require the immediate replacement of said engine as it is four years past the end of its service life. Finally, with the number of \$200 per resident for fire protection per year, this would translate into a combined total of \$95.11 per \$100k assessment.

If we factor in the finances, coupled with capital expenditures, it would be safe to assume a rate of \$237.78 per \$100K of assessment to potentially meet minimum requirements. The largest limiting factor is the population. Records list 239 properties. In comparison, West Fraser VFD has a budget of \$101,200 with a rate of \$130/\$100k assessment on 476 properties and Lac La Hache VFD with a budget of \$178,022 with a rate of \$81.77/\$100k on 771 properties.

Staff also explored the option of making Greeny Lake a satellite department of Lac La Hache. This had to be discarded as they are located in excess of thirteen kilometres from the boundary. In summary, the financial impact to the ratepayers would be substantial and there would be an exceptional administrative burden to staff to further explore this project.

## Attachments:

None

## Financial Implications:

Significant financial impact to residents of the identified fire district.

## Policy Implications:

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## Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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## CAO Comments:

I concur with the staff recommendation. While I understand the need for fire services in our communities, we must ensure that the services we provide are realistically sustainable. The challenges we face in fire service administration are already proving to be onerous with the fire departments we have.

Should the Board still wish to proceed with feasibility, we would ask that sufficient funds be allocated to allow for the projects to be completed by a third party. This project is not in our 2020 work plan and our resources are fully utilized.

## Options:

1. Endorse recommendation;
2. Receipt and other action;
3. Defer.

## Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services, dated June 5, 2020, be received. Further, that the request for feasibility funds to explore the possibility of establishing the Greeny Lake Volunteer Fire Department as a CRD service be denied as the initial investigation of staff determines that the undertaking is not economically viable.