



building communities together

2021 Business Plan Forest Grove Fire Protection (1319)

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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 Forest Grove Fire Protection service was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District, by Bylaw No. 2438, in 1990. This service underwent a significant expansion in 2008, authorized by Bylaws No. 4397 and Bylaw No. 4459. It is funded by a combination of a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of improvements only, and a flat parcel tax fee of \$30 applied against every legal piece of property within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate that can be collected is the greater of \$165,000 or \$1.1317/\$1,000 of assessed value of land and improvements.

The expansion amalgamated the Forest Grove and previously independent Canim Lake Fire Protection Society into one large fire protection area with two fire halls – a main and satellite hall. The Forest Grove Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and first responder services within their specified area.

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

3. **Goal:** Purchase turnout gear and PPE.
Rationale: Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan. Plan on purchasing two new sets each year.
Strategy: Use operational funds.
4. **Goal:** Ensure training plans are in accordance with core service(s).
Rationale: Training must reflect the primary functions listed within the Fire Services Bylaw. Exterior operations certification will be the sole focus for membership. Leadership training will be developed and delivered by CRD staff.
Strategy: Use operational funds and internal resources to achieve success.

2021 Forest Grove VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Repair parking lot.
Rationale: High water table has caused the parking and surrounding area of Hall #1 to destabilize and become a hazard to apparatus.
Strategy: Use capital reserve.
6. **Goal:** Complete land title transfer from the Association to the CRD.
Rationale: Land title did not occur as was listed in the fire services agreement in the 80s. Staff has been working to rectify.
Strategy: Continue to work with legal to complete.

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 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 most cost-effective manner while adhering to all mandated regulations and policies.

- **Recruitment:** The CRD will be administering a regional recruitment campaign in 2021 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 must be monitored to ensure compliance of WorkSafe, NFPA/ULC, CRD policies and Operational Guidelines. CRD staff will engage in person with departments to ensure compliance, reduce administrative burden, and promote fiscal responsibility.
- **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. This will include the disposal of unnecessary equipment.