



*building communities together*

## **2021 Business Plan Bouchie Lake Fire Protection (1323)**

*Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services*

***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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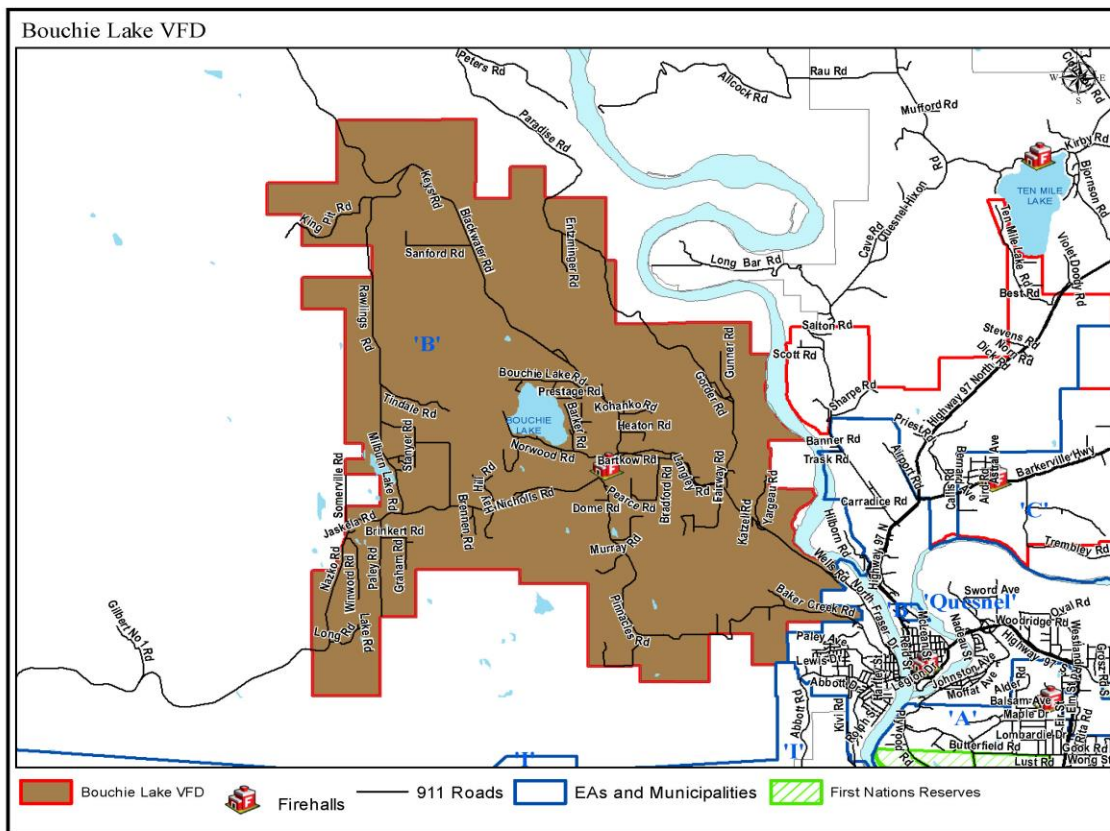
### **Department/Function Services**



The Bouchie Lake Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaw No. 2539 (1991), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1976 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Bouchie Lake 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 \$99,500 or \$2.75/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Bouchie Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, first responder and ice rescue services within their specified area. They also have a blanket mutual aid agreement with all other CRD and municipal fire departments in the North Cariboo.

As Electoral Area B 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

### 2021 Regional Goals

1. **Goal:** Ensure compliance with OH&S.  
**Rationale:** In light of the Jolley report, several issues need to be rectified, including, but not limited to, OH&S inspections, PPE, and operations.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds and support organizational change with Protective Services staff.
  
2. **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 sync FDM with Laserfische for all records to be submitted to the RIMS at the main CRD office, and to ensure proper records are being updated and maintained.

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 Bouchie Lake VFD Specific Goals**

5. **Goal:** Construct fence at firehall.  
**Rationale:** Increased security and reduction of liability for trespass.  
**Strategy:** Used deferred funds from 2020.
6. **Goal:** Complete electrical upgrade at Milburn Hall.  
**Rationale:** Upgrade of infrastructure for safety and projected usage.  
**Strategy:** Use deferred funds from 2020.

### **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.