



building communities together

2023 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 \$317,843 or \$1.4146/\$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.

1. **Goal:** Repair stairs.
Rationale: Priority has been on PPE and apparatus, which has resulted in less resources being put towards facilities. Existing buildings will require repairs as a higher priority for the next several years.
Strategy: Use operational funds.
2. **Goal:** Complete detailed inventory.
Rationale: Detailed inventory has not been fully completed to date. The department needs to verify all tangible assets to determine the proper cycle to replace tools, appliances, turn out gear, air cylinders and hose.
Strategy: Support with Protective Services staff.

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:** Protective Services will continue to work in conjunction with Communications to enhance advertising programs ensuring maximum exposure on multiple platforms in regard to recruiting.
- **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 implement cost saving measures and ensure capital reserve yearly contributions are being maintained. This will include the disposal of unnecessary equipment.