



*building communities together*

## **2023 Business Plan Bouchie Lake Fire Protection (1323)**

*Michael Navratil, 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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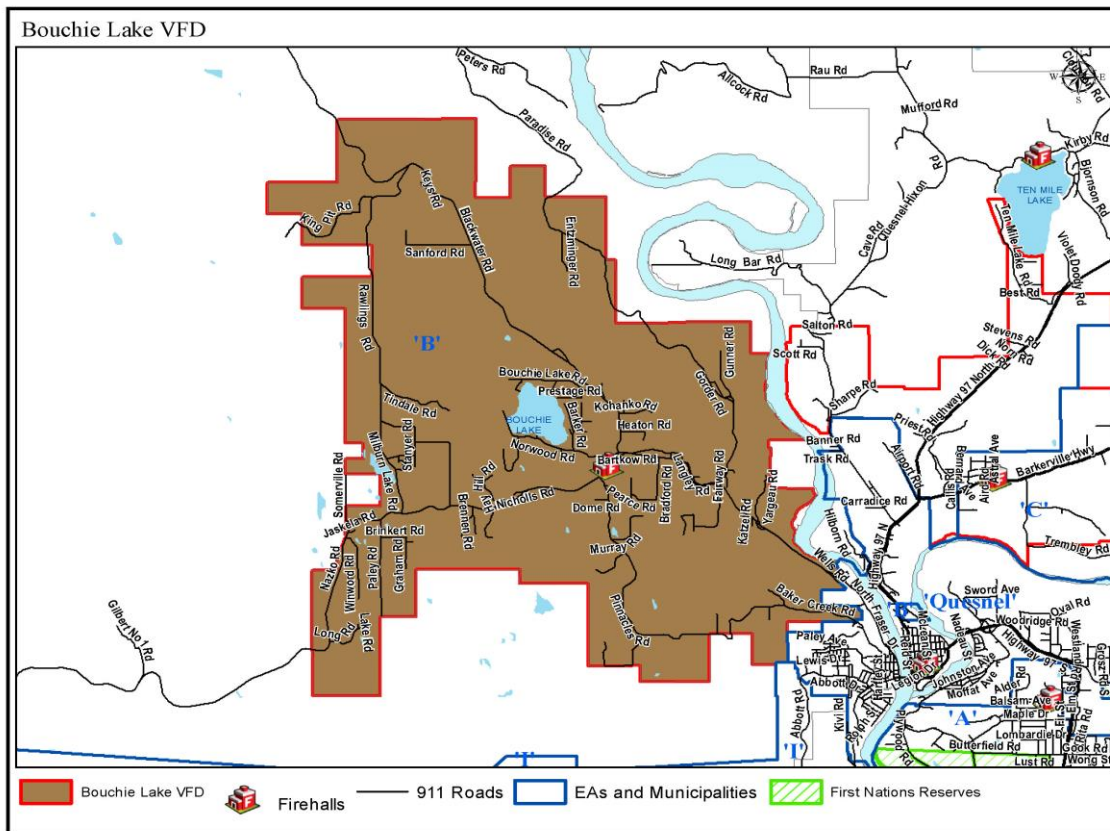
### **Department/Function Services**



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

### 2023 Regional Goals

1. **Goal:** Purchase turnout gear and PPE.  
**Rationale:** Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan. CRD staff to inventory turnout gear and ensure ongoing compliance.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds.
2. **Goal:** Ensure training plans are qualitative and quantifiable.  
**Rationale:** Training must reflect the primary functions listed within the Fire Services Bylaw. Exterior operations level certification will be done through the College of the Rockies.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds and internal resources to achieve success.

## 2023 Bouchie Lake VFD Specific Goals

1. **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 to ensure maximum exposure on multiple platforms regarding 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.