



*building communities together*

## **2024 Business Plan Forest Grove Fire Protection (1319)**

*Cody Braaten, Acting 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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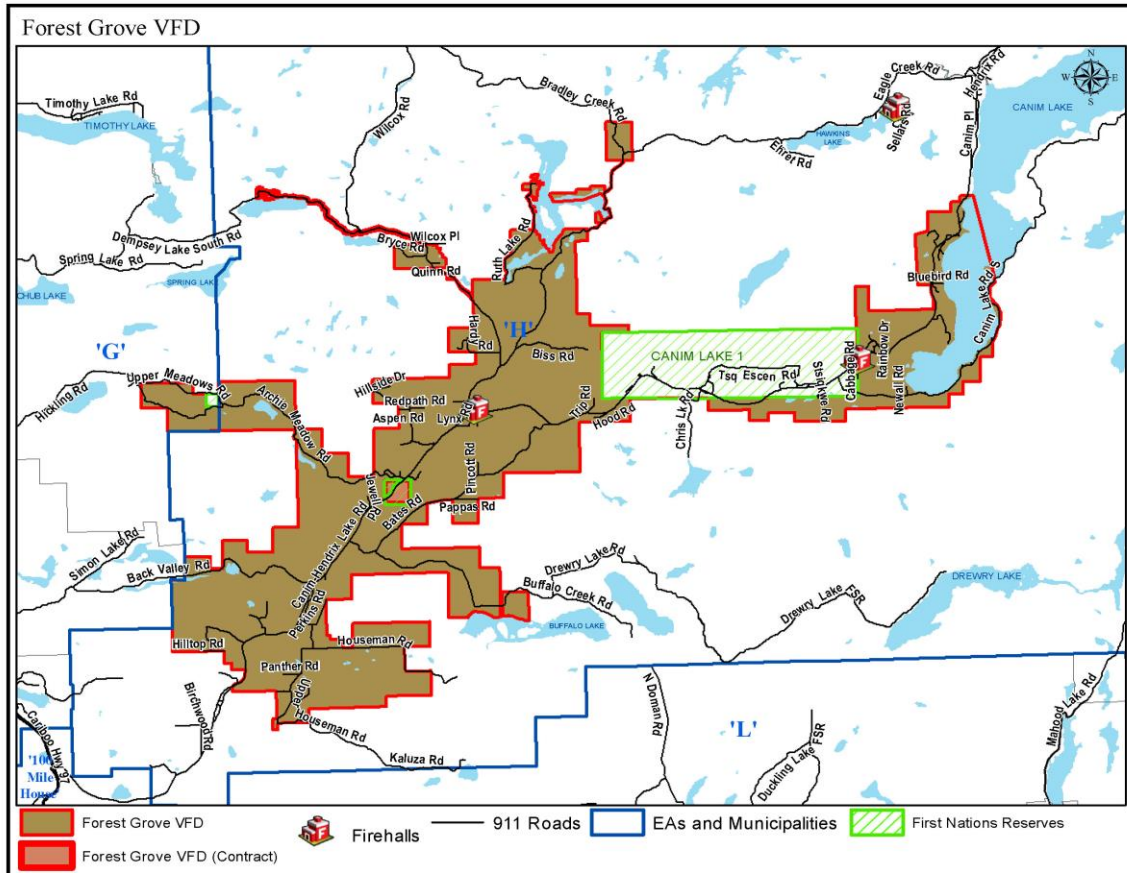
### **Department/Function Services**



The 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.



## Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

### 2024 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.

3. **Goal:** Increase Chief and Officer remuneration.  
**Rationale:** With increasing responsibilities and workload, it is becoming challenging to get Chiefs and Officers to either step up into these roles or remain in these roles.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds.

### 2024 Forest Grove VFD Specific Goals

1. **Goal:** Purchase and install shipping container.  
**Rationale:** VFD lacks secure storage for equipment, this will solve this issue.  
**Strategy:** Use capital funds.
2. **Goal:** Repair and update firehall.  
**Rationale:** This is necessary to maintain the building or reach WSBC and BC Building Code Requirements. List of issues that need to be addressed over the coming years include siding replacement, ditching to alleviate flooding and lack of shower for decontamination.  
**Strategy:** Review projects with Chief Building Official and Procurement Department and utilize capital funds for possible upgrades.

### 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 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.