



building communities together

2024 Business Plan Interlakes Fire Protection (1367)

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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.

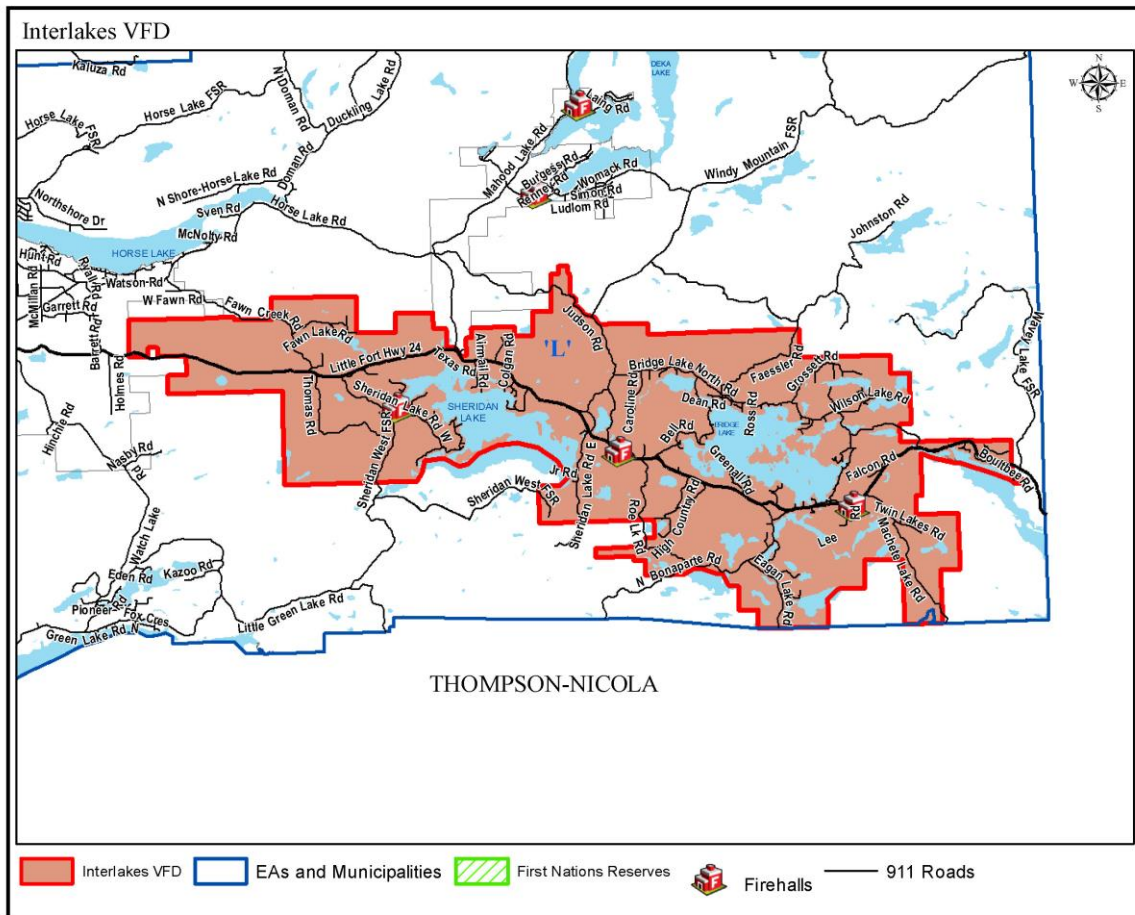
Department/Function Services



The Interlakes Fire Protection Services, authorized by Establishment Bylaw No. 4405 and Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 4406, is a function of the Cariboo Regional District established in 2008 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. This service is funded by a combination of a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of improvements only and a flat parcel tax fee of \$50 applied against every legal piece of property within the local service area. The maximum requisition that can be collected is the greater of \$286,965 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$.6977/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The Interlakes Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and first responder services within their specified area.

As the Electoral Area L Director 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

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 Interlakes VFD Specific Goals

- 1. Goal:** Install a dry hydrant.
Rationale: To ensure adequate amount of water when actioning fires within the area and ensure member safety by not having to cut through the ice on the lake in the winter.
Strategy: Use capital funds.
- 2. Goal:** Purchase SCBA and cylinders.
Rationale: Current equipment is outdated and needs to be replaced.
Strategy: Use operational funds.
- 3. Goal:** Firehall improvements and renovations.
Rationale: To enhance hall usability and ensure compliance with BC Building Code.
Strategy: Use capital funds over 2024 and 2025.

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.