



building communities together

2025 Business Plans Fire Departments (1300)

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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.

Overview

The Fire Departments of the CRD continue to serve our residents at the highest possible standard while working through recruitment and retention struggles. Positive change has occurred throughout 2024 and will continue to improve through 2025. The Protective Services department saw the addition of the Regional Fire Chief role as well as the transfer of the FireSmart Educator role from Emergency Programs. Our service continues to evolve and adapt to the changing needs of our residents, climate, and health restrictions towards a modern fire service that reflects dedication, perseverance, and professionalism.

Challenges

- Recruitment and retention;
- Capital asset management;
- Records management;
- Equipment standardization.

Successes

- Transition to standardized training for all departments;
- Improved communications between the CRD and Volunteer Fire Departments;
- Replacement of fire apparatus is compliant with FUS recommendations;
- Ensuring safe and compliant PPE is being utilized.

Impacts to Budget

While most Departments are in average to good financial positions, some are still rebuilding surplus to meet the directive of the Board to have fifty percent of operating costs in reserve. Additionally, the larger impacts for 2025 are being driven by apparatus

replacement as directed by the Board to meet the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) requirements for insurance reduction. In order to assist in the rebuilding of reserves and affording operationally required equipment, several apparatuses have been pushed back to lessen the impact on the ratepayers and provide a better financial cushion.

Goals

- 1. 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 Laserfiche for all records to be submitted to the RIMS at the main CRD office, and to ensure proper records are being updated and maintained.
- 2. 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.
Strategy: Use operational funds and internal resources to achieve success.
- 3. Goal:** Implement standardization of identified equipment and utilize bulk purchasing.
Rationale: The standardization of equipment will allow for better operational functionality during emergency response with mutual aid partners. Bulk purchasing will allow for cost savings to the VFDs and taxpayers.
Strategy: Establish a committee to choose standardized equipment.
- 4. Goal:** Review status of the firehalls in conjunction with the asset management plan.
Rationale: The current state and estimated lifespan of the firehalls is not currently identified. Identifying the status of the buildings and working it into the asset management plan will allow for long term forecasting of repairs and replacements.
Strategy: Utilize operational budgets to hire qualified professionals to evaluate the buildings.
- 5. Goal:** Increase firefighter recruitment.
Rationale: Recruitment of additional firefighters will allow for additional attendance to emergency scenes and further succession planning.
Strategy: Increase annual operational funds allocated to advertising each year.

1319 - Forest Grove Fire Protection (2025)

1320 - 100 Mile Fringe Fire Protection (2025)

1321 - 108 Mile Fire Protection (2025)

1323 - Bouchie Lake Fire Protection (2025)

1324 - Lac La Hache Fire Protection (2025)

- 1325 - Red Bluff Two Mile Fire Protection (2025)
- 1326 - Deka Lake Fire Protection (2025)
- 1327 - 150 Mile Fire Protection (2025)
- 1328 - Wells Fire Protection (2025)
- 1329 - Lone Butte Fire Protection (2025)
- 1330 - Barlow Creek Fire Protection (2025)
- 1331 - West Fraser Fire Protection (2025)
- 1332 - Miocene Fire Protection (2025)
- 1333 - Ten Mile Fire Protection (2025)
- 1364 - Kersley Fire Protection (2025)
- 1365 - Wildwood Fire Protection (2025)
- 1367 - Interlakes Fire Protection (2025)
- 1369 - Williams Lake Contract Fire Protection (2025)
- 1380 - 911 Telephone System (2025)