



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Bouchie Lake Fire Protection (1323)

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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.

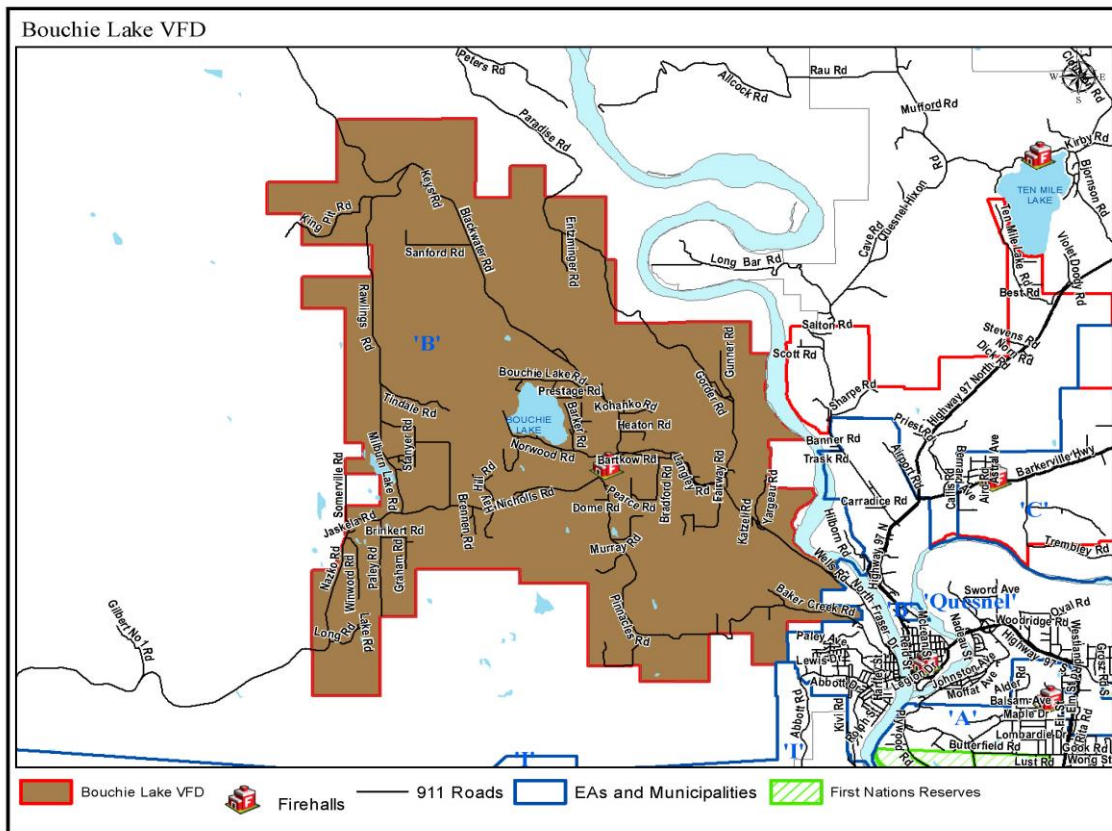
Department/Function Services



The 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

2025 Bouchie Lake VFD Goals

1. **Goal:** Purchase turnout gear and PPE.
Rationale: Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan.
Strategy: Use operational funds.

2. **Goal:** Replace firehall roof.
Rationale: Current roof is aging and needs to be replaced.
Strategy: Use capital funds.

Significant Issues & Trends

Issues: Recruitment and Retention; Capital Asset Management; Records Management; and Equipment Standardization.

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.

- **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.
- **Capital Asset Management:** The Cariboo Regional District is researching options for an asset management program. Protective Services will work with other departments to utilize this to identify possible shortcomings of the firehalls and hire qualified professionals to evaluate the buildings.
- **Records Management:** Protective Services staff will work with VFD personnel to implement and maintain records management for all fire department documents as per mandated requirements.
- **Equipment Standardization:** The standardization of equipment will allow for better operational functionality during emergency response with mutual aid partners. Protective Services will establish a committee to choose standardized equipment and work with Procurement to purchase as budgets allow.