



# REPORT

To: Electoral Area Directors Committee

Date: March 9, 2019

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Charlie Lake Fire Department Road Rescue & First Medical Response Public Engagement**

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## RECOMMENDATION:

That the Electoral Area Directors Committee recommend to the Regional Board to move forward with an electoral approval process in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area to amend the service establishment bylaw in order to provide first medical response services.

## BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On February 26, 2020, staff and the Electoral Area C Director attended a public engagement session at the Charlie Lake Community Hall to discuss the possibility of adding road rescue and first medical response services in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area. Approximately 40 people attended the 2 hour session.

To gather feedback from the area residents, staff developed an information package to describe the proposal and conducted a survey to determine if there was interest in adding these services.

## Results:

Note that although there were 126 responses to the survey, it appears that there are a number of multiple responses from the same IP address – in some instances between 4 and 15 responses.

- 83% of respondents reported being from Charlie Lake; 5% from Grandhaven
- 37% of respondents were in favor of Charlie Lake Fire Department providing road rescue services; 63% were not.
- 72% of respondents were in favor of Charlie Lake Fire Department providing first medical responder services; 28% were not.
- When asked if they were in favour of both services being offered, only 37% were in favor and 63% were not.

Given the strong support for first medical response services and less support for road rescue services at this time, the directors may wish to consider conducting an elector approval process only for first medical response services and consider whether to offer road rescue in the future, should boundaries expand at a later date.

With respect to an elector approval process, a referendum, petition or alternative approval process could be conducted to gain elector feedback. Given the number of properties (approximately 1,500) a petition process would be as labour intensive and costly as a referendum.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head: *T. Morgan*

CAO: *[Signature]*

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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Electoral Area Directors’ Committee recommend to the Regional Board to move forward with an electoral approval process in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area to amend the service establishment bylaw in order to provide first medical responder services and road rescue services.
2. That the Electoral Area Directors’ Committee recommend to the Regional Board to move forward with an electoral approval process in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area to amend the service establishment bylaw in order to provide road rescue services.
3. That the Electoral Area Directors’ Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Responsive Service Delivery
- Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs (equipment)	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue Annual Operations	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations	Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
\$47,000.00	\$ 0.0393	\$23,500.00	\$ 0.0196	\$70,500.00	\$ 0.0589
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>
\$150,000.00	\$5.90	\$150,000.00	\$2.94	\$150,000.00	\$8.84
\$300,000.00	\$11.79	\$300,000.00	\$5.88	\$300,000.00	\$17.67
\$450,000.00	\$17.69	\$450,000.00	\$8.82	\$450,000.00	\$26.51
\$600,000.00	\$23.58	\$600,000.00	\$11.76	\$600,000.00	\$35.34
<i>* based on 2020 current assessments</i>					

First Medical Response 1st Year Start-up (equipment)	Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Response Operations	Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Response 1st Year Start-Up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations	Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
\$10,000.00	\$ 0.0084	\$30,250.00	\$ 0.0253	\$40,250.00	\$ 0.0337
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>
\$150,000.00	\$1.26	\$150,000.00	\$3.80	\$150,000.00	\$5.06
\$300,000.00	\$2.52	\$300,000.00	\$7.59	\$300,000.00	\$10.11
\$450,000.00	\$3.78	\$450,000.00	\$11.39	\$450,000.00	\$15.17
\$600,000.00	\$5.04	\$600,000.00	\$15.18	\$600,000.00	\$20.22
<i>* based on 2020 current assessments</i>					

Combined Road Rescue & First Medical Response 1st Year Start-up Costs Plus Operations	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue & First Medical Response 2nd year Operations	Est. Tax Rate
\$110,750.00	\$ 0.0926	\$53,750.00	\$ 0.0449
<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Taxes</b>
\$150,000.00	\$13.89	\$150,000.00	\$6.74
\$300,000.00	\$27.78	\$300,000.00	\$13.47
\$450,000.00	\$41.67	\$450,000.00	\$20.21
\$600,000.00	\$55.56	\$600,000.00	\$26.94
<i>* based on 2020 current assessments</i>			

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

If the Board moves forward with an elector approval process for one or both of these services, statutory advertising will be conducted and the Engage page will be updated <https://prrd.bc.ca/engage/charlie-lake-fire-services-expansion/>.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):****Advertising:**

Postcards were mailed out to each residence and business with a civic address within the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area. Posts were made to social media and our website, as well as Facebook and newspaper and radio ads. A 'Dot-Mocracy' survey, and paper survey were present at the public engagement session, and also posted electronically to the Engage page to provide ample opportunity for residents to give their initial feedback.

- **Social Media** – The Engage Page was linked to the PRRD Facebook page, as well as shared after the public engagement session, with a link to an online survey, to allow area residents the ability to provide feedback if they were unable to come to the in-person session. The campaign achieved a total of 1901 impressions and 267 “clicks”.
- **PRRD Website/Engage** – An Engage page was created on the PRRD website with the survey added the morning after the public engagement session, and included the Info Package (Attachment #1), which includes tax rate calculations for initial start-up costs and annual cost increases), background information, and detailed descriptions on the levels of service that are being proposed. The Engage page received a total of 527 visits over the survey period (Feb 27-Mar 6).
- **Media** - Local Media outlets, Alaska Highway News and Energetic City published 3 articles regarding Road Rescue and First Medical Response public engagement, and posted a story with links to the Engage Page embedded within
- **Radio** – Radio ads aired once per day on 101.5 The Bear, 98.5 Sun FM, and 890 Pure Country starting February 14<sup>th</sup> and ending on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mailouts** – Postcards were mailed out to all civic addresses in the Charlie Lake fire protection area, to notify residents and business owners of the public meeting.

**Attachments:**

1. Info Package
2. Survey Analysis Results
3. Photos of event & 'Dot-Mocracy' boards



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT



CHARLIE LAKE  
FIRE DEPARTMENT

Charlie Lake

# Road Rescue & First Medical Response



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# First Medical Response & Road Rescue Services in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area

The Peace River Regional District is seeking the community's opinion on whether to provide road rescue and first medical response services in your area.

Meet with us at the Charlie Lake Community Hall on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 to find out more information and to provide your feedback.

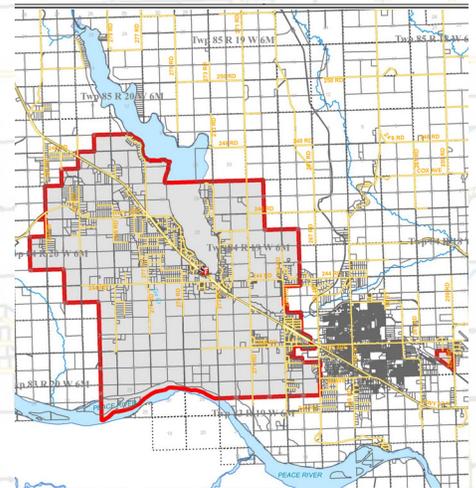
## Establishing Road Rescue and First Medical Response Services

In rural areas of BC structural fire protection is provided by fire departments through contract with neighboring municipalities or non-profit societies or directly delivered by regional districts or improvement districts. Only those rural communities that have received elector approval for the service (i.e., have gone to a vote or other elector approval process), receive the service and as such not all areas of rural BC receive fire protection.

Road rescue and first medical responder (FMR) services are often delivered by fire departments or non-profit "rescue" organizations. In some instances these services are delivered through contract with municipal fire departments or they may be delivered by rural fire departments if approved by the electors.

In the case of the Charlie Lake Fire Department, in 1980 when the Charlie Lake Fire Protection service was established by a vote of the electors, only the provision of fire protection was approved. Therefore at this time, only those activities related to "fire protection" can be provided by the Department.

If there is sufficient interest from the community to provide additional services such as road rescue and/or first medical response then the Regional District will undertake an elector approval process to amend the bylaw that outlines the scope of services provided by the Department to the service area.





## What is Road Rescue?

In BC when there is a vehicle accident on a public roadway that requires rescue services, fire departments or non-profit road rescue associations attend the scene to assist BC Ambulance and/or the RCMP to conduct the safe rescue of patients and ensure that they are transferred into the care of BC Ambulance. Road rescue areas have defined boundaries where rescue organizations (fire departments or associations) respond to ensure that there is no duplication or overlap.

These rescue organizations are reimbursed by the Province of BC in accordance with their road rescue reimbursement policies to respond to calls outside of their fire protection areas, however, the amount reimbursed often falls short of the cost to provide the service. As such local taxpayers often must subsidize the service through taxation to provide the service within their fire protection areas, as they do throughout BC today.

In the North Peace the following fire departments provide this service:

- Hudson's Hope – Hudson's Hope to Attachie
- Taylor – portion of Baldonnel and Two Rivers to Kiskatinaw Bridge
- Fort St John - portion of Baldonnel and Two Rivers to the Sikanni Chief Bridge
- Fort Nelson - Sikanni Chief Bridge to the border

Currently the Charlie Lake Fire Department does not provide road rescue services within or outside of their fire protection boundaries. If the Department were to provide road rescue services within their fire protection area (and any expanded areas), it would mean the department would respond to an extra 15-20 calls per year, with calls having an average duration of 60 minutes.

In order to provide the service, members will maintain auto extrication training at an estimated annual cost of \$2,500. Equipment to perform the service would include auto extrication tools at a cost of approximately \$37,000 which would need to be purchased and replaced generally every 10 years. Members would also need to continue with FMR training in order to treat patients involved in a vehicle accident should the Department arrive on scene prior to BC Ambulance. Small upgrades to medical kits and automated external defibrillators (AEDs) would be needed for all front line vehicles at a cost of approximately \$10,000 with a variety of the supplies replaced each year.

The overall cost of the service on an annual basis is estimated at \$23,500 with start-up costs of \$47,000.



## What is First Medical Response?

First Medical Response (FMR) is performed by a number of fire departments in BC who supplement and support ambulatory services provided by BC Ambulance. Typically fire departments who provide the service often only respond to Red and Purple calls, and Orange calls only when ambulances are significantly delayed.



In doing so, these fire departments often are dispatched automatically when there is a Purple or Red call and if arriving on scene prior to BC Ambulance, they will provide care to the patient until BC Ambulance can arrive to continue to care for the patient and transport them to the nearest hospital. Some fire departments would also respond to other types of calls if requested by BC Ambulance when they anticipate a prolonged delay in their own response.

If Charlie Lake Fire Department were to provide the service in the existing fire protection area and any expanded areas, it is estimated that it would increase the department's total call volume by 35-50% or up to an additional 35-50 calls per year - currently the Department responds to 100-115 calls per year. Typically most FMR calls take place between 10:00 am and mid-night each day and most day-time calls would be responded to by existing Department staff.

In accordance with WCB requirements, a number of Charlie Lake Fire Department members are currently trained to provide medical assistance to their own members in the case of an injury while responding to a call, however, 5-10 members would need to be trained or re-certified each year at a cost of \$50/person in addition to annual supplies.

Note that fire departments who provide this service do not receive any financial reimbursement of costs from the Province of BC or any provincial agency. The cost to provide the service is solely borne by the local tax payer, however, much of the training and equipment costs are already included in the annual budget as per WCB requirements.

The overall cost of the service on an annual basis is estimated at \$30,250 with start-up costs of \$10,000.

# About the Charlie Lake Fire Department

Operated directly by the Peace River Regional District since 2012, the Charlie Lake Fire Department currently provides fire protection services to the communities of Charlie Lake and Grandhaven. The Department is staffed by a full time Fire Chief and full time Deputy Chief and boasts an annual membership of approximately 30 highly trained volunteer firefighters.

**Training:** Firefighters are trained to the National Fire Protection Association Standard of 1001 Level 2 – this is the same level as full time, career firefighters in municipal fire departments. This training takes 12 months to complete and is only the start of their training. Firefighters continue to expand their knowledge and skills throughout their entire career in the fire service by training on forcible entry, pumps and pumping, emerging technology, strategies and tactics, and new safety procedures. Training is conducted every Thursday evening throughout the year with specialty courses often being provided over weekends.

**Level of Service:** Due to the high level of training that the Department achieves and maintains, the Department is considered a “full service” fire department as defined by the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. This is the same level of service as most “career” fire departments achieve. This means that they are trained to conduct both exterior and interior fire suppression and fire rescue services.

**Apparatus:** Currently the Charlie Lake Fire Department utilizes the following apparatus

- two command vehicles (4x4 pickup's) - one is utilized during wildfire season as a brush truck and has small water tank with pump and wild land firefighting tools
- one dedicated brush truck set up for wildfire response
- one side x side wildfire response unit equipped with small water tank with pump and wild fire fighting tools
- one rescue vehicle with rope rescue and fire fighter rehab and decontamination
- two engines
  - Engine 1- 1999 Fort Garry, 1000 gal water tank and 1050GPM Pump to be replaced by HUB custom Engine in 2020
  - Engine 2- 2006 Sterling HUB, 2000 gal water tank and 1050 GPM pump. Due to be replaced in 2030
- three water tenders
  - Tender 1- 2012 Rosenbauer with 1500 gal water tank due to be replaced in 2032,
  - Tender 2 - 1987 Superior with 1000 gal water tank, due to be replaced in 2020 with new Fort Garry Tender.
  - Tender 3 - 1996 International with 1500 gal water tank, due to be replaced in 2028



Note that front line equipment is generally replaced at 20 years of age in order to maintain requirements set out by the Fire Underwriters of Canada (so that homes and businesses can receive credits on their insurance) and to ensure maximum operability. Equipment greater than 20 years of age may continue be used to support the front line equipment. Given that Charlie Lake Fire Protection area only has 2 low flow hydrants, it is important to maintain and utilize our older equipment to shuttle water during a fire response.

### Current level of service:

- Structural fire protection: responding to fires impacting homes, farms and businesses
- Interface fire protection: responding to fires in the “interface” between the community and the forest lands. Often local fire departments will work closely with the BC Wildfire Service.
- Prevention and public education: conducting reviews with businesses in the area to learn about their structures and any hazards that may exist which could impact the strategies employed during a fire response; conducting public education through open houses, classroom visits, etc.

**Average response times:** Currently the Department’s average response time is 15 minutes.



**Fire Chief Edward Albury**

250-785-1424  
edward.albury@prrd.bc.ca



**Deputy Fire Chief Ron Schildroth**

250-785-1424  
ron.schildroth@prrd.bc.ca



## Current 2019 / 2020 Tax Rates (without New Services)

In order to provide Road Rescue and First Medical Response, the PRRD must receive approval from the tax payers as these services will result in tax increases for those within the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area. The costs below don't currently include Road Rescue and First Medical Response.

2019 Requisition	Tax Rate	2020 Proposed Requisition	Est. Tax Rate
\$759,308.00	\$ 0.6562	\$772,097.00	\$ 0.6454

Assessed Value	2019 Taxes	Assessed Value	2020 Taxes
\$150,000.00	\$98.43	\$150,000.00	\$96.81
\$300,000.00	\$196.86	\$300,000.00	\$193.62
\$450,000.00	\$295.29	\$450,000.00	\$290.43
\$600,000.00	\$393.72	\$600,000.00	\$387.24

### What does 'Assessed Value' mean?



Assessed Value is the amount that your property is worth. Tax rates are set based on the assessed value of your property, meaning people whose property is worth more will pay more in taxes.

## What are my taxes used for?

Taxes collected for the Charlie Lake Fire Department service area used for:

- training new and existing members
- purchasing equipment and supplies
- testing and maintaining equipment to ensure that it is safe and meets NFPA and WCB requirements
- contributing funds to a capital reserve to replace equipment in the future as it ages out
- use of water from hydrants
- public education and prevention
- overhead: wages, building maintenance, volunteer pay, licenses and utilities

### Who assesses my property?



Property assessment are completed by BC Assessment each year and are not set by the PRRD. Find out more about property assessment by visiting [www.bcassessment.ca](http://www.bcassessment.ca)



## Estimated Costs for New Services

Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs (equipment)	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue Annual Operations	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations	Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
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First Medical Response 1st Year Start-up (equipment)	Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Rescue Operations	Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Response 1st Year Start-Up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations	Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
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\$600,000.00	\$55.56	\$600,000.00	\$26.94

based on 2020 current assessments



### **Dawson Creek Head Office**

PO Box 810 (1981 Alaska Avenue)  
Dawson Creek, BC  
V1G 4H8

Telephone: 250-784-3200  
Toll-free: 800-670-7773  
Fax: 250-784-3201  
E-mail: [prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca)

### **Fort St John Office**

9505 100 Street  
Fort St. John, BC  
V1J 4N4

Telephone: 250-785-8084  
Toll-free 800-670-7773  
Fax: 250 785-1125  
E-mail: [prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca)

### **Website**

[prrd.bc.ca](http://prrd.bc.ca)

 Peace River Regional District Official Page

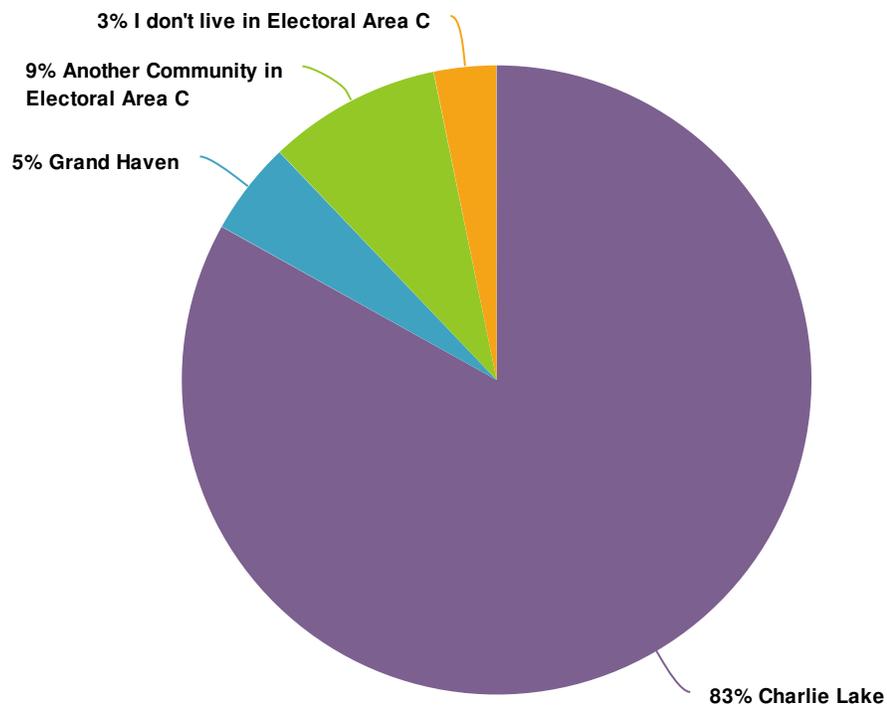
# Report for CLFD Road Rescue and First Medical Response Survey

## Response Counts



Totals: 126

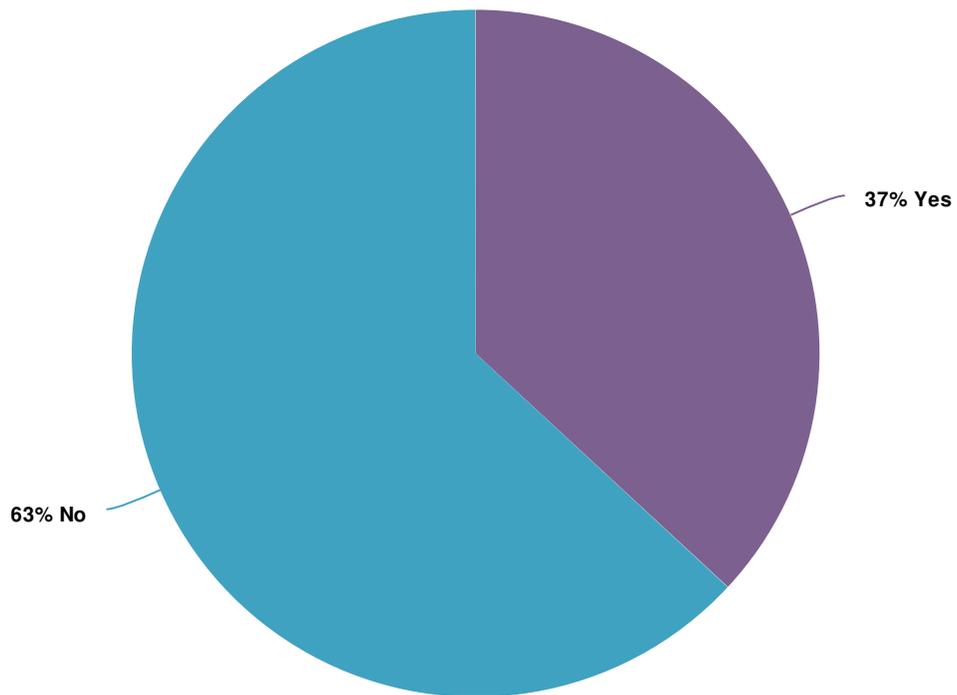
## 1. I live in:



Value		Percent	Responses
Charlie Lake		83.1%	103
Grand Haven		4.8%	6
Another Community in Electoral Area C		8.9%	11
I don't live in Electoral Area C		3.2%	4

Totals: 124

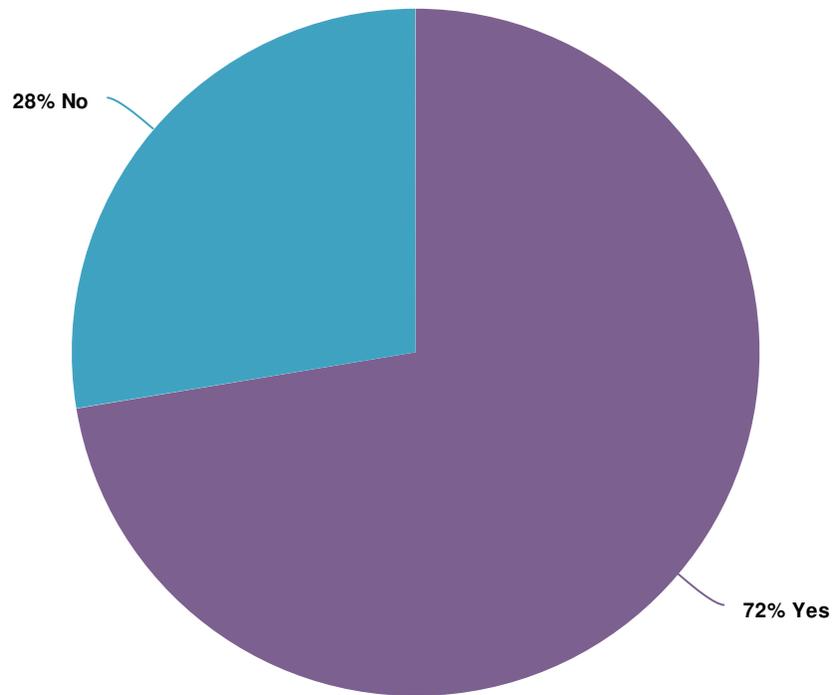
2. Do you support the addition of Road Rescue in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes		36.9%	45
No		63.1%	77

Totals: 122

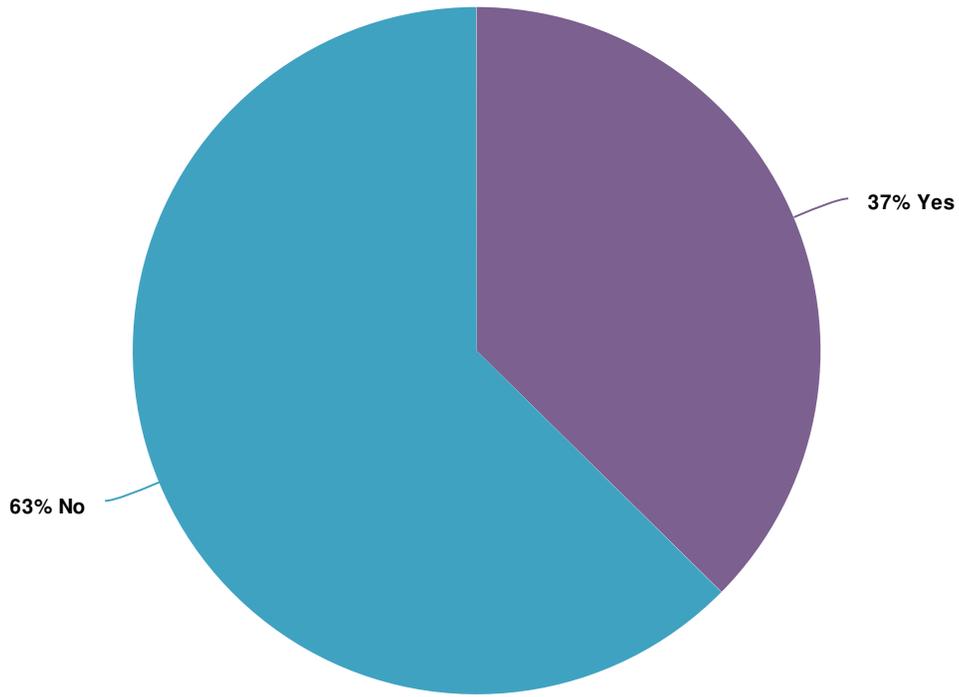
3. Do you support the addition of First Medical Response in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area?



Value	Percent	Responses
Yes	72.4%	89
No	27.6%	34

Totals: 123

4. Do you support the addition of both Road Rescue and First Medical Response in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area?



Value		Percent	Responses
Yes		37.4%	46
No		62.6%	77
			<b>Totals: 123</b>

5. Do you have any other comments or concerns regarding the addition of Road Rescue and/or First Medical Response in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area?



**ResponseID    Response**

4                      Will this addition increase taxes?

7                      Why are our taxes going up for a slower less experienced service that is already being provided and funded by the province of bc? Doing a road rescue service with a volunteer dept. is not reliable. You are depending on people coming voluntarily. These people have other jobs and families, both of which might be more priority then going to a road rescue call. You can not guarantee that there will be a full crew to show up. And under the current service that is provided we have a Full time career fire dept. servicing the area. I do not believe that the complete set of extrication equipment will be \$10,000. At the end of the day if my family was stuck in a vehicle I would want the best tools and most experienced full time fire dept. in the area to be responding and extricating them from the vehicle. Also Charlie Lake average response time is 15min. this is not acceptable for a fire let alone a person trapped in a vehicle. The current standard for the NFPA 1710 is to have the first arriving engine on scene in 240 sec / 4 min within 90% of the responses with the minimum staff of 4 personnel.

11                     I would like to thank the men and women at the fire dept who keep us safe. I dont think they get paid enough to do what they do but very much appreciate the dedication and time away from their own families to help ours. I was surprised that they already didn't provide medical first response. i fully support the fire dept providing these services to our great community.

12                     No

15                     This would be a great asset for the community as well as the surrounding areas

17                     Will this increase our property taxes? If yes, by how much?

20                     Charlie lake is being provided road rescue services already at no cost. This doesn't make financial sense to spend funds on a service that is already being provided.

## ResponseID Response

- 21 With the growing population & increased traffic I believe the is a needed service. I fully support it.
- 22 We already have a faster road rescue service being provided for us. Why would I pay more for less. As one couple mentioned minutes count when it comes to emergency health services.
- 25 The website is vague on the current service coverage provided for Road Rescue in Charlie Lake. Emergency Medical services would be an asset for our community.
- 28 It is a disservice to the citizens on the roads to switch to from a professional department who are experienced and staffed 24/7 and currently provide the service at no cost. To hand this service over to unexperienced department with a slower response time at an increased cost is senseless and less safe for the people driving the roads.
- 31 I do not want to pay more in taxes for a service that is already been supplied by the province. also the service is been supplied by a full time department witch everyone knows is staffed and can leave the hall faster, then a volunteer department having to drive to the fire department then jumping on a truck and responding. lastly a full time department has way more experience and training the weekly training a volunteer department gets, it the volunteers even show up for it. i would like the charlie lake fire department to concentrate on the services they already supply so that there is not 15min response time. Rather then adding new services that they can't handle. online it states a modern house will burn in less then 8minutes why do we have 15minutes response times?? these 15minutes response time was published in there handout at the meeting.
- 33 The service/s are already being provided by extensively trained and experienced professional firefighters of the Fort St John Fire Department. If anything, the City of Fort St John should be staffing the CLFD with full-time professional firefighters if they want this increase in services.
- 36 How can the addition of road rescue be beneficial for our community when a large portion of the Charlie Lake firefighters reside in areas that would require them to travel through the emergency scene to retrieve a fire truck? Isnt this service already provided for our community with zero cost?
- 37 The Charlie Lake Community already receives this service from the Fort St John professional Fire Dept who have state of the art equipment and exceptionally experienced and highly trained Firefighters already in place, being that a high percentage of the Charlie Lake Volunteers either live in FSJ or work in FSJ or both, I don't see how a response from that distance to the hall to then get ready for the call before responding is an upgrade in service when FSJ has a 24 hr a day fully staffed hall which are ready to go within a moments notice. What The Charlie Lake area should be looking for is for that Firehall in Charlie Lake to be staffed as a satellite hall of FSJFD with full time professional firefighters, then it would be an upgrade of service!

## ResponseID Response

- 41 I think First Medical Response would be a good thing. But why would I want CLFD to do Road Rescue when we are already getting the service for free. I dont want my taxes to go up for something that my community already gets for free. Also I would be concerned that the response times would be slower then what Fort St John provides. Fort St John is staffed 24/7. My concern would be the long delay that CLFD would have because most of there members including there Chiefs live in Fort St John.
- 42 Why would the PRRD want to pay over \$40,000 a year for road rescue when we already get the service for free. Plus living in Grand Haven there Fort St John would be able to get the accident faster as they are closer and already have guys at the fire hall. Charlie Lake fire department would have to have to go to the fire hall get a truck then drive to the accident. I wouldn't want to be trapped in a vehicle any longer than I would have to be. It just doesn't make sense.
- 43 I don't think we should change they way it's run. We get road rescue for free right now so why pay for it. Fort St John should do First Medical Response in Grand Haven because they would get there way faster than Charlie Lake would.
- 44 I don't want to pay for Road Rescue out of my taxes when it is already free. I would be concerned about the level of service and response from a volunteer department to a paid department. I was a volunteer on the Island and training only 2 hours a week and very rarely doing auto ex training. Compared to my brother who was a paid fire fighter in Victoria trained every shift and quite often on auto ex. I think it would be foolish to change.
- 45 No I should't have to pay for anything else. My taxes are high enough.
- 46 I think that Charlie Lake Fire Department could possibly do first medical response because no one is doing it right now. I would be good the community. I don't think they should do road rescue because the service is already provided for free. Doesn't make much business sense.
- 47 Let me ask you this. Company A is currently giving you High Speed internet for Free right now. Company B comes along and want's to sell you Dialup Internet for \$40,000 a year with a \$20,000 start up fee. What would you go with? Company A should be a pretty clear choice
- 50 Faster response to First Medical Response could save lives. But slower response to accidents could cost lives. A paid department responds faster to calls than a volunteer department does. When my neighbour had a fire a couple years ago around Christmas, a Fort St John fire truck beat the Charlie Lake fire truck to the fire. I was less than a mile from the Charlie Lake hall.
- 53 Concerns about potential additional annual maintenance, operations, training, staffing costs as well as equipment costs passed on to taxpayers when services are already provided. No experiences of current lack of service from my family so why change?
- 54 We need this. The firefighters know our area. They will get to us much faster when seconds count.

## ResponseID Response

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- 59 With the amount the general area is growing expanded services are needed.
- 71 I have lived in this area my whole life, I am grateful for the volunteers. My family has been saved twice by the fire department. Wholeheartedly support this amazing service.
- 73 Will they attend a residence say for a stroke or heart attack
- 80 No
- 90 To have faster response times for a medical emergency is imperative in this area. My husband had a serious life threatening medical issue and it took the ambulance 45 minutes to get him to the hospital. They had to call Charlie Lake fire department to help load my husband into ambulance. He weighed 180 lbs. Unacceptable.
- 94 The City of Fort St. John professional, full-time Fire Department has the training, equipment, experience and has an immediate response time for highway rescue. Fort St John is already servicing the area for highway rescue. Bringing Charlie Lake volunteer Fire Department to an adequate level of training, experience and equipment would add a burden of unnecessary tax to the tax payer. A department without full time staff will inevitably delay getting help to those in need. Medical response, however, is the appropriate program for the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area. I would say this is of greater value for tax payer funds. Training is easily accessible and currently there is no first responder medical response in area. Trained medical response would be a helpful service for Charlie Lake's population.
- 95 The addition of services of Road Rescue to Charlie Lake DO NOT INCREASE the level of service provided to Charlie Lake and its residents. Road Rescue is already provided to Charlie Lake for FREE by Fort St. Johns fully staffed 24/7 career fire department. Changing this to Charlie Lake's volunteer hall would mean a DECREASE in service to its residents. Changing to Charlie lake would mean a car crash victim would have to wait for a group of VOLUNTEERS to get to the Charlie Lake hall to get outfitted before heading to the emergency creating a lengthy delayed response time. Most of Charlie Lakes volunteers live In FSJ which means a patient would have to wait 10-15 minutes longer than is Fort St. John was to respond being fully staffed. What if the highway from Fort St. John was blocked off due to a car crash? How would the VOLUNTEERS make it from FSJ to Charlie Lake fire hall then back to the accident? That time delay could mean people die. Personally if my loved one was in an accident and dying I would want a trained PROFESSIONAL there as fast as possible to save their life, not a 15 MINUTE DELAY and treatment from a VOLUNTEER.
- 96 As a resident of Charlie Lake, I do not believe us paying for a service that is already provided by the professional and fully staffed 24/7 staff of Fort St. John fire rescue is any benefit to the community. As a volunteer hall with members living or working outside Charlie Lake they would have a much delayed response in comparison to Fort st. John's ability to respond at a moments notice.

## ResponseID Response

- 105 If Charlie Lake hired full time people to respond for first medical response and road rescue I might be in favour, however relying on volunteers who may or may not be available has too much uncertainty.
- 106 Stretching the Fire Dept's services is the last thing they should be doing. They already are lacking in their services. Let FSJ continue to do their job ! Focus on not letting houses burn down
- 108 Why should we pay for a service that is already being provided? What sort of delay would we have when so many CLFD firemen live FSJ? What if the highway was closed and you couldn't get firemen to the CL fire hall?
- 110 Currently the FSJ Fire Department is proving exemplary road rescue services to the area. Having a fully staffed 24/h career department provide road rescue saves valuable response time to accident scenes. No waiting for personnel to arrive in station before responding. Experience, equipment and response time are of the utmost importance when dealing with Road Rescue. As a person who travels through the area, I am very concerned with the prospect of lowering the level of service in such high risk situations.
- 114 Our provincial taxes pay for medical service already (BCAS). Why should we pay more, especially when cost is likely to increase when our oil patch gets going again?
- 115 Waste of taxes dollars! We didn't vote leaders in to make us pay for something we get for free. I have been rescued by FSJ firefighters in the Charlie Lake protection area. They were fast, professional and are staffed full time. What is Charlie Lake fire going to do? Drive from their homes/work, past the accident, to go get a firetruck, wait for enough guys, then respond? That's ridiculous.
- 116 15-20 calls a year for \$47,000 startup \$23,500 annual? Are you all nuts?
- 119 This can't be the best option? Was it costed out to see what it would look like to have Fort St John provide these services? They are full time, will get here faster and have experience. I don't want a part time volunteer to be responsible for my family and neighbors lives!!!
- 120 Not worth the money to do road rescue. We're already getting it.
- 124 Taking a career hall with immediate response times to a volunteer hall with 20 plus minute delays to accidents could mean peoples lives. The Fort St John Fire hall is professional and quick.
- 125 The Fort St. John Fire Department does a great job already servicing this area for Road Rescue. They are a career hall with immediate response times. Charlie Lake is a volunteer hall and could have huge delays waiting for men which could mean peoples lives.
- 127 \$1000 per call for a volunteer fire dept???

## ResponseID Response

130 I do not support dropping our service levels. This is straight from your own report "Deficits or concerns include a lack of an approved strategic plan for the Department, the need for better officer training and development, and the lack of a succession plan, as well as the ongoing challenge of providing a reasonable level of response by volunteers during business hours on weekdays." You should have asked Mitchell Associates "How can our residents receive a better service?", NOT "How can Charlie Lake Fire provide a better service?" We need more people paying attention and voting. This is a bad direction, in my opinion.

132 Increase the fire protection; increasing the Road Rescue / first aid will benefit the local infrastructures ie the elementary school; faster services to mva's further up the highway which has increased in the last 10 yrs.

135 No

136 I believe Fort St John is providing a quality Road Rescue service for the Charlie Lake area. The service is already being paid for by the province.

138 I know that the city of FSJ Fire Department already does this. I've heard that they have all the tools and equipment and training and that it would cost us a ton of money to set up this program. These guys are professionals that do this for a living. I would rather have pros show up to a car crash instead of a bunch of volunteers. I've heard that the province pays those guys to do the job they're already doing in this area. Why would I pay more in taxes for a lesser service. To me this is a no-brainer. If I call 911 I want the best guys with the best gear as fast as possible. I think the Charlie Lake department should be replaced by FSJ Fire completely. Don't expand their service. Get us a professional department instead.

139 I think that the clfd is ready and I fully support them getting the new service

140 We are lucky enough to fall under the protection of the fort St. John fire department for free, which is staffed by paid, experienced professionals 24/7. It does not make sense to leave this important service in the hands of an unstaffed volunteer department, which struggles with turn over and attendance at the best of times. Also the majority of volunteers at the Charlie Lake Fire Department live in fort St. John. This means that if there was an accident at the 269rd all of them would have to drive through the scene on the way to the hall to get a truck, and then back track causing a severe delay. To summarize Fort St. John fire already provides a superior service to the Charlie lake area for no additional cost, and if it were my loved ones that needed help I would hope Fort St. John got the call.

## ResponseID Response

141 Phrasing the question as an "addition" of road rescue is misleading. Charlie Lake already has Road Rescue covered by the Fort St. John Fire Department. Choosing to replace this service with the Charlie Lake volunteers, would increase the response time to road rescue incidents. Time is of the essence when it comes to life and death situations involved in road rescue. If we switch to a 20 minute delayed response we are putting citizens at risk. We should keep the existing quick response from the Fort St. John Fire Department as it provides the best service possible for our citizens. As far as medical response, Charlie Lake is already covered by BCAS. There are times however, when they would require the assistance of Fire Department personnel, or when they are delayed and could use trained medical professionals to start treatment on a patient, until they arrive. However, the same problem of delayed response times becomes an issue here. If someone has a severe emergency, ie cardiac arrest, diabetic, difficulty breathing, heavy bleeding, you need to have medical attention ASAP. If we are looking at getting medical professionals to the scene because BCAS is delayed, we would be better off figuring out a way to have Fort St. John Fire Department help prior to BCAS arriving.

142 I'm concerned with having a volunteer fire department providing road rescue service vs a fully staffed career department. This brings up many issues. Delayed response time with having members responding from home to the fire station. Responding with a short staffed truck due to lack of members in town. The additional cost to tax payers when the service is already being provided.

150 I am happy with the current road rescue service and look forward to the addition of medical services.

151 Medical yes, Road no

152 yes for the current level of road rescue. I have personally had FSJ FD help me in charlie lake; they were quick and caring. yes to medical service expansion.

155 Our current services provided by the FSJ FD have been top notch, I do not see the need to pay for extra services rendered at a slower response rate from a volunteer hall.

171 Question Four seems unnecessary.

178 Why question 4? Questions 1-3 cover everything.

181 we already pay for far too many callouts tat are NOT needed. A deer in the ditch full of snow is NOT going to burst into flame. Also I am sure you could hire some homeless person to sweep up glass at a fender bender, this would be much more cost effective. we already pay far too much for this service. I recall the Charlie Lake fire dept having to call Ft. St. John to put out a little fire in the RV park. I'd say "look after what you have and don't add any more to our taxes|

188 We have an ambulance service. why over lap services? We have traffic on the hi way from here to wherever. when does it stop?

## ResponseID Response

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190 Fort St. John is providing a great service.

191 After hearing the CJDC interview, it's clear that this would only be the beginning of service expansion. We don't need part time volunteers responsible for saving our families, when we have full time FSJ firefighters doing it already. I honestly wish we had them for medical response too! We would never support a part time, volunteer in the emergency or operating room saving our loved ones. We would demand a full time, full educated and experienced, paid professional. Why is the perception so narrow for accidents on our incredibly dangerous highways. I feel like the regional district and city have to get better at communication so that ALL our citizens can be properly protected in the BEST way possible. It may not be an easy task, but at our Coffeys talk today, my voting neighbors feel that it's RIGHT by our values. Respectfully.

193 One of my major concerns is that most of your members live in Fort St John proper, including your Chief and Deputy. If most of your members are in Fort St John, I would rather just have Fort St John respond. Why does Charlie Lake allow so many members to live in Fort St. John? Leave the process the way it is. Thank you

194 There is absolutely no information or mention of response times. and what the change in response time will look like for our current provider. We currently don't pay for this either which was never mentioned. we need to know our response times and people need to be made aware that many members are from FSJ

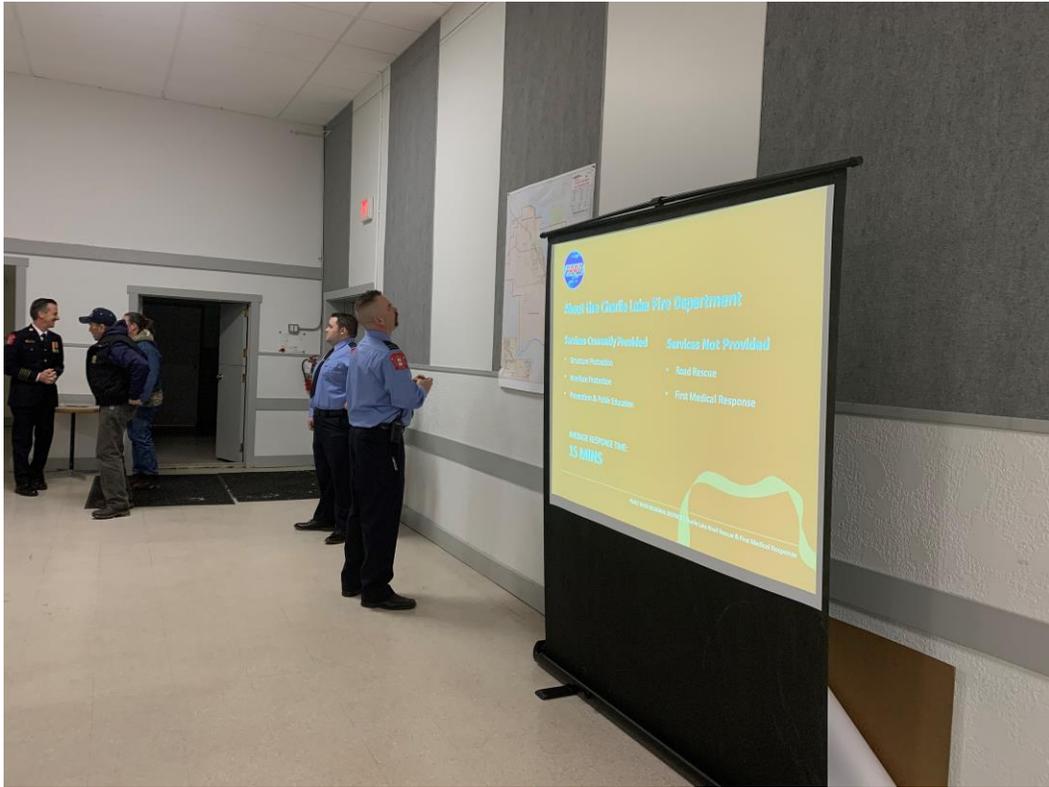
195 wait until the city booms again, tough to get members! we went through this before.

198 There needs to be more information on response times. what we get now, and would with Charlie Lake people need to know what % of members actually live in FSJ= delayed response

# Charlie Lake Road Rescue & Medical First Response – Public Engagement Session

## Attachment #6: Photos and 'Dot-Mocracy' Boards





## Estimated Cost for New Services

### First Medical Response

First Medical Response 1st Year Start-up (equipment)		Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Rescue Operations		Est. Tax Rate	First Medical Response 1st Year Start-Up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations		Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
\$10,000.00	\$	0.0084	\$30,500.00	\$	0.0253	\$40,250.00	\$	0.0337

Assessed Value	Taxes	Assessed Value	Taxes	Assessed Value	Taxes
\$150,000.00	\$1.26	\$150,000.00	\$3.80	\$150,000.00	\$5.06
\$300,000.00	\$2.52	\$300,000.00	\$7.59	\$300,000.00	\$10.11
\$450,000.00	\$3.78	\$450,000.00	\$11.39	\$450,000.00	\$15.17
\$600,000.00	\$5.04	\$600,000.00	\$15.18	\$600,000.00	\$20.22

based on 2020 current assessments

### What do you think?

Place your sticker under the statement you agree with.

<p>I support the addition of First Medical Response in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:</p>	<p>I <b>DO NOT</b> support the addition of First Medical Response in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:</p>
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# Estimated Cost for New Services

## Road Rescue

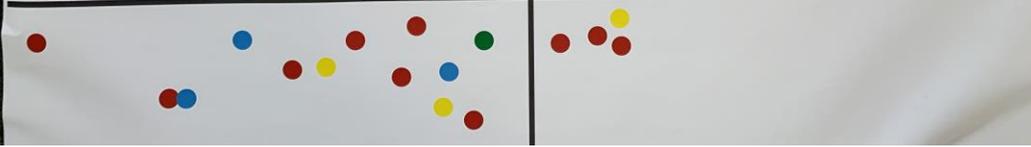
Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs (equipment)	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue Annual Operations	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue 1st Year Start-up Costs Plus 1st Year Operations	Est. Tax Rate in 1st Year
\$47,000.00	\$ 0.0393	\$23,500.00	\$ 0.0196	\$70,500.00	\$ 0.0589
Assessed Value	Taxes	Assessed Value	Taxes	Assessed Value	Taxes
\$150,000.00	\$5.90	\$150,000.00	\$2.94	\$150,000.00	\$8.84
\$300,000.00	\$11.79	\$300,000.00	\$5.88	\$300,000.00	\$17.67
\$450,000.00	\$17.69	\$450,000.00	\$8.82	\$450,000.00	\$26.51
\$600,000.00	\$23.58	\$600,000.00	\$11.76	\$600,000.00	\$35.34

What do you **think?**

Place your sticker under the statement you agree with.

I support the addition of Road Rescue in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:

I **DO NOT** support the addition of Road Rescue in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:



# Estimated Cost for New Services

## Road Rescue and First Medical Response (Combined)

Combined Road Rescue & First Medical Response 1st Year Start-up Costs Plus Operations	Est. Tax Rate	Road Rescue & First Medical Response 2nd year Operations	Est. Tax Rate
\$110,750.00	\$ 0.0926	\$53,750.00	\$ 0.0449
Assessed Value	Taxes	Assessed Value	Taxes
\$150,000.00	\$13.89	\$150,000.00	\$6.74
\$300,000.00	\$27.78	\$300,000.00	\$13.47
\$450,000.00	\$41.67	\$450,000.00	\$20.21
\$600,000.00	\$55.56	\$600,000.00	\$26.94

based on 2020 current assessments

What do you **think?**

Place your sticker under the statement you agree with.

I support the addition of both Road Rescue and First Medical Response in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:

I **DO NOT** support the addition of both Road Rescue and First Medical Response in the Charlie lake Fire Protection Area:

