



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: CS-RBAC-011

From: David Sturgeon, Protective Services Manager

Date: January 21, 2021

Subject: Function 315 Charlie Lake Fire Draft 2021 Budget

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee recommend that the Regional Board include the draft 2021 budget for function 315 – Charlie Lake Fire in the 2021 Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Charlie Lake Fire Budget provides for fire protection services in the Charlie Lake Fire Protection Area per Bylaw No. 1360, 2001.

Operating expenses include maintenance, insurance, and utilities for the hall, as well as; wages, training insurance, and development of the staff. General expenditures for 2021 focus on the operations and maintenance of the existing fleet of fire apparatus, fire operations and small equipment. Capital expenses for 2021 focus on minor building/land upgrades and increased IT infrastructure following the acquisition of two new apparatus in 2020.

The Area 'C' Director reviewed the Charlie Lake fire budget 2021 on Wednesday, January 6.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Budget highlights:

Requisition = \$751,531 a decrease of \$20,566 from 2020.

- General Expenditures have increased due to wage increases, the condition assessment of the Charlie Lake Fire Hall and the purchase of new fire hose to replace the aging assets.
- Allocations have increased slightly.
- Fleet Maintenance has decreased due to the two new apparatus received in 2020.
- Fire Operations has decreased due to forecasting of the previous 3 years actual financials.
- Volunteers' cost have increased slightly due to the increase in insurance and the turnout to calls.
- Surplus / Deficit = \$161,000 surplus carry over from the 2020 budget to 2021.

Two capital projects are budgeted for 2021 which include \$61,000 for site prep and a coverall building to house the two tenders that are parked outside of the fire hall. This will allow them to be kept full of water in the winter as the structure will be heated. The second project is to replace all the handheld radios as the current fleet is aging and the technology is becoming outdated. The replacement will include a radio that can work on all current communications systems that are available in the market to be better prepared for rapidly changing technology.

Transfer from the Area C Gas Tax Reserve = \$15,000 to fund a condition assessment of the Charlie Lake Fire hall for the PRRD asset management program.

Reserves Balance: Operating Reserve balance is \$78,242.40, remaining the same for 2021. The Capital Reserve balance is \$662,966.95 with \$60,000 being budgeted in 2021 bringing the total to \$722,966.95 in 2021.

Maximum requisition for this service as per bylaw No. 1587, 2005 Charlie Lake Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment is the greater of \$450,00 or the product of a property tax of \$1.57/\$1000 net taxable value on land and improvements.

The estimated tax rate for this service in 2021 is \$0.6491 which is a slight increase from \$0.6454 in 2020.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Function 315 Charlie Lake Fire REV Draft 2021 Budget
2. Charlie Lake Fire Draft 2021 Supplemental Form