



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Date: March 2, 2020

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner Appointments for rural fire protection areas

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board recommend appointment of Deputy Fire Chief Fred Burrows as Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner for the Dawson Creek Rural Fire Protection Area to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Over the last year there have been a number of staffing changes in the region and as a result new appointments of Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC) have been requested.

Under the **current** *Fire Services Act (FSA)*, the fire commissioner is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the FSA pursuant British Columbia Fire Code. Note that it is anticipated that once the **new** *Fire Safety Act* comes into force, LAFC's may no longer be required and the Act will replace this designation with fire inspectors. Until the new Act comes into force (12-24 months from now), the OFC is requesting that the Regional District update these appointments.

To assist the fire commissioner in the enforcement of the current FSA, LAFC's are either appointed or conscripted within each municipality and in the unincorporated areas. In most cases, the LAFC is the fire chief and other fire service members of that community. Outside of a municipality, the LAFC is the local police where the Fire Commissioner has not directly appointed an LAFC. The LAFC acts under Provincial Authority and are accountable to the Fire Commissioner, not local government.

The LAFC is responsible to:

- Investigate fires in a general way
- Report fires
- Create preliminary fire reports
- Enforce provincial fire safety legislation

The FSA empowers a LAFC to enter premises to inspect for fire hazards and conditions that would hinder escape from fire, usually upon receipt of a complaint.

No actions or proceeding can be brought or taken against the LAFC for anything they have done or omitted during the performance of their duties under the FSA unless approved by the Attorney General.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head: 

CAO: 

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board decline to recommend to the Office of the Fire Commissioner appointment of any new individuals as Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner for the rural fire protection areas.
2. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Responsive Service Delivery
- Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Appointment process for those outside of a municipality:

- The governing body requests the Fire Commissioner appoint the LAFC within their area of jurisdiction through Section 6 1(c) of the *Fire Services Act*. The Fire Commissioner then looks at the request and has the authority to approve or decline the request.
- To request the appointment of a LAFC, the governing body for that area of jurisdiction must send in a written request to the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) with the area of jurisdiction that will be covered by the appointed LAFC.

Attachment:

1. Letter from Fire Chief Bob Fulton to Office of Fire Commissioner

Dawson Creek Fire Department

10101-12A Street

Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3V7

Fax # (250) 784-3638

Phone # (250) 782-9898



Emergency Management BC
Office of the Fire Commissioner
PO Box 9201 Stn. Prov. Gov't.
Victoria BC V8W 9J1

Re: LAFC Letter of Appointment for Dawson Creek Fire Department

As the duly appointed fire chief for the Dawson Creek Fire Department, pursuant to the provisions of Section 6 1(a) of the Fire Services Act, I hereby authorize Fred Burrows with City of Dawson Creek Fire Department to exercise the powers of a Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (LAFC) within the City of Dawson Creek and Dawson Creek Rural Fire Protection Specified Area.

Please issue Deputy Chief Fred Burrows a LAFC badge and identification card and send to my attention for distribution.

It is understood that the badge will be returned and the Office of the Fire Commissioner will be informed when the authority of the holder ceases as per section 41 (3) of the Fire Services Act.

Deputy Chief Fred Burrows can be reached through the department contact information listed below:

Email: fburrows@dawsoncreek.ca
Telephone #: (250) 782-9898
Direct Telephone #: (250) 784-3635
Fax #: (250) 784-3638
Address:
10101-12A Street
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 3V7.

Yours truly,

Bob Fulton, Fire Chief

10101-12A Street
Dawson Creek BC V1G 3V7

Business line (250) 782-9898
Fax: (250) 784-3638

Save Lives Prevent Fires

March 12, 2020