



# REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Date: March 2, 2020

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **NCLGA Resolution - Fire Apparatus Useful Life**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:** *[Corporate Unweighted]*

WHEREAS the Fire Underwriters Survey requires that in order to receive credit for fire insurance grading purposes, all first line fire apparatus in small and rural communities should be replaced after 20 years of service and may only be extended up to 25 years when fire apparatus is tested and proven to be in excellent mechanical condition;

AND WHEREAS small and rural local governments often are financially challenged to replace high cost and minimally used fire apparatus on a 20-25 year rotational basis;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of British Columbia Municipalities petition the Province to advocate to the Fire Underwriters Survey to consider providing credit for fire apparatus that is 25 years or older and in sound working condition in order reduce costs to taxpayers.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In order for communities to receive insurance credits by the Fire Underwriters Survey, which lowers home and business fire insurance rates, fire apparatus in small and rural communities must be replaced generally every 20 years. Fire departments may make a request to extend these ratings up to 25 years but must also test and provide documentation that the apparatus is in excellent condition for the Fire Underwriters Survey to consider providing credits. In small communities some apparatus may only have limited use and mileage and by replacing them when they are still in good condition puts an increased burden on the taxpayers.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- Responsive Service Delivery
  - Enhance Emergency Planning and Response Capacity
- Advocacy
  - Emergency Response Capacity for Local Governments

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

CAO:

Page 1 of 2

March 12, 2020

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time, however, if the Fire Underwriters change this policy it could reduce the cost to taxpayers in the long-term.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

If approved, this resolution will be forwarded to the Peace River Local Government Association for discussion at their AGM on March 26, 2020, and to the North Central Local Government Association for their AGM May 13-15, 2020 prior to the resolution submission deadline of March 13, 2020.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None.