



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-551

From: Corporate Administration

Date: November 21, 2024

Subject: Emergency and Disaster Management Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2563 – Requisition Increase

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board give Emergency and Disaster Management Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 2563, 2024, to increase the maximum requisition permissible for the service from \$250,000 to \$625,000, first three readings.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On November 7, 2024, the Regional Board passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

“That the Regional Board authorize staff to bring back an Emergency and Disaster Management Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw with a cap of \$625,000 to the November 21, 2024 Board meeting.”

[‘Report ADM-BRD-545, Emergency Management Bylaw Amendment’](#) as included on the November 7, 2024 Regional Board Meeting agenda, proposed an outright removal of the maximum requisition applicable to Function 300 - Emergency and Disaster Management Service to provide the Regional Board with the ability to consider a budget for Function 300 that fully funded the service including all of the responsibilities that now rest with the Peace River Regional District following the enactment of the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) on November 8, 2023. The EDMA legislation replaced the *Emergency Program Act* previously in place in BC and expanded the scope of responsibilities placed upon local governments relative to emergency planning, preparation, response and recovery for and from emergencies. Additional regulations to further clarify roles and responsibilities are expected to continue to roll out over the coming months.

The Regional Board rejected the proposed removal of the maximum requisition as permitted under *Local Government Act (LGA) S.339(2)(e)* for bylaws establishing programs in preparation for emergencies. The Regional Board instead directed an amendment to the bylaw that substantially increased the current maximum requisition for the service. The requested amendment bylaw is attached for consideration of the Regional Board. Also attached is a Draft Consolidated Bylaw showing the proposed changes inserted in the original bylaw. New additions are shown in yellow highlights and deleted language is shown in strikethrough.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Emergency Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

As stated in the November 7, 2024 report, costs for both new positions (Emergency Management Officer and Emergency Program Coordinator) are accounted for within Function 300 – Regional Emergency Planning. Both positions are vital to delivering the legislated requirements for ongoing Indigenous engagement and collaborative emergency planning within the PRRD, as dictated by the BC modernized emergency management legislation. In 2024, a \$48,000 portion of these staffing costs was covered through the BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Indigenous Engagement Requirements funding program. For 2025, verbal confirmation from BC Emergency Management and Climate Readiness regional staff indicates further forthcoming financial assistance to all local governments to assist and finance a portion of these ongoing staffing costs with the exact amount, and timing of receipt of the funding yet to be determined. As such, an increase in requisition for 2025 (from \$296,983 to \$526,990 or 77%) is required to fund the 2 new positions for this function. This bylaw amendment increases the requisition limit to allow for these ongoing staffing costs, with a small buffer for other increases that may result from yet to be released regulations associated with the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Upon approval of first three readings, the bylaw will be submitted to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs for approval.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The *Local Government Act*, S.349(1)(b) authorizes the amendment of an establishing bylaw with the consent of at least 2/3 of the participants. The Minister may order that assent of the electors be obtained in the same manner as was received when the service establishment bylaw was adopted, or that approval of the electors be sought in the service area.

Attachments:

1. Draft Emergency and Disaster Management Service Amendment Bylaw No. 2563, 2024
2. Draft Consolidated Emergency and Disaster Management Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1598, 2005.

External Links:

1. [November 7, 2024 Regional Board Meeting](#) – See Item 10.1 “Emergency Management Service Bylaw – Removal of Maximum Requisition – ADM-BRD-545”