



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-400

From: Community Services

Date: April 10, 2025

Subject: Mobile Computer Assisted Dispatch – UBCM Next Generation 911 Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize submission of a grant application on behalf of the Peace River Regional District to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities – Next Generation 911 Fund for a grant of up to \$100,000 to be used towards the purchase of mobile Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) units for the Moberly Lake Fire Department and the Charlie Lake Fire Department.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Mobile Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD) units are utilized by first responders throughout the province as they provide responders with critical information from dispatch such as incident planning and scene management capabilities. The expected lifespan for these units is between 2 – 5 years, and with the new capabilities of Next Generation 911 (NG911), many pre-existing CAD units cannot take advantage of the new data sets that will be available once NG911 comes online.

Currently, the units possessed by the Charlie Lake (CLFD) and Moberly Lake (MLFD) Fire Departments are at or nearing the end of their expected lifespan and require replacement as part of the PRRD’s Asset Management Plan. Due to the age of the current CAD units, the software within them is becoming outdated and unable to utilize new or improved software and data, including integration with the Next Generation 9-1-1 system. MLFD would benefit from 4 new units, and CLFD could utilize the replacement and installation of approximately 10 units in its fire apparatus, and squads.

The province of British Columbia is transitioning from using legacy 9-1-1 systems to NG911 systems for 9-1-1 services, and this transition will require updated data to be uploaded to the mobile CAD units from dispatch. With the current mobile CAD units, issues may result as the units may not be capable of receiving the updated data set. Without this data, response times and operations of our first responders could be negatively impacted, which could ultimately impact service delivery.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Asset and Infrastructure Management

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Each unit is approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000, dependent on the required docks, and updated wiring they may require. The estimated cost of replacing the 14 units is approximately \$84,000, with additional costs estimated at \$16,000 for the installation of the new units.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

If the grant application is unsuccessful, staff will plan to replace the CADs over the next several years, for both departments.