



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-047

From: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Date: February 17, 2021

Subject: Function 315 Charlie Lake Fire Draft 2021 Budget

The following recommendations from the January 21, 2021 Rural Budgets Administration Committee meeting are being presented to the Regional Board for its consideration:

RECOMMENDATION #1: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board approve the supplementary request to build a coverall storage building in the compound at the Charlie Lake Fire Hall in the amount of \$61,000.

RECOMMENDATION #2: [Corporate Weighted]

That the Regional Board approve the supplementary request to purchase replacement handheld radios for the Charlie Lake Fire Department in the amount of \$106,000.

RECOMMENDATION #3: [Corporate Weighted]

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 in accordance with 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 overall draft budget is \$947,531. This is a decrease of \$884,521 or 48.28% from 2020. This is primarily due to the decrease in capital expenses.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Budget highlights:

Requisition = \$771,531, an increase of \$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 - \$100,000 surplus carry over from the 2020 budget

Supplemental – Coverall Building – Handheld Radio Replacement

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 radios are 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 \$312,639.50 with \$20,000 being budgeted in 2021 bringing the total to \$332,639.50 in 2021.

Maximum requisition for this service as per Charlie Lake Fire Protection Service Establishment Amendment Bylaw No. 1587, 2005 is the greater of \$450,000 or the product of \$1.57/\$1000 net taxable value on land and improvements.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Function 315 Charlie Lake Fire Draft 2021 Budget and Tax Rate