



BOARD REPORT

- TO:** Chair and Directors
- SUBJECT:** Electoral Area C, D, F, and G: Road Rescue Service Establishment in Gap Areas
- DESCRIPTION:** Report from Derek Sutherland, General Manager, Community and Protective Services, dated October 9, 2024. Road rescue service establishment in specified fire suppression areas
- RECOMMENDATION:** THAT: an assent process for service delivery be undertaken to provide service within the fire suppression boundaries of the South Shuswap sub-regional fire service area in Area C and G, Falkland, and North Shuswap sub-regional fire service boundaries.
- AND THAT: the Board allocate \$40,000 per service establishment from the Electoral Area feasibility study funds for the purpose of engaging the electorate in a service establishment referendum.
- Corporate Vote Unweighted Majority*

SUMMARY:

At the August 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, it was requested that the Board deliberate on road rescue service establishment in the fire suppression areas of Shuswap/Eagle Bay, Falkland, and North Shuswap sub regional fire service area.

BACKGROUND:

The CSRD Protective Services department and the Board have been contemplating the service delivery of road rescue as a function of the fire services in areas that are underserved by current road rescue providers.

Two road rescue reports have been undertaken, the first in 2017 and the second in 2023. These reports identified the following areas as being underserved:

- Sorrento/Blind Bay/Eagle Bay in the South Shuswap fire service area
- Falkland fire service area
- North Shuswap fire service area

Options for service delivery have been presented to the Electoral Area Directors Committee and the Committee of the Whole. The option to provide service through the fire departments was deemed to be the most favourable option for service delivery. This option requires a separate service area for budgetary purposes but would see service provided by existing fire department staff and resources.

Additional options for service delivery can be reviewed in the attached EAD report from April 2024.

If road rescue is a service the Board wishes to pursue, a service area establishment needs to be undertaken. The most appropriate service area establishment process is assent voting/referendum.

The fire departments in the identified areas have been approached and are willing to take on road rescue services if the approval of the electors is obtained.

POLICY:

A-52: Volunteer fire departments under the auspices of the CSRD shall not be granted the authority to provide additional services such as medical first responder, highway rescue, search and rescue and hazardous materials spill response.

This policy will be amended if the fire departments provide road rescue services.

FINANCIAL:

The estimated cost of a referendum is \$40,000. Staff are looking into whether there is a need for three separate service areas or if one road rescue service could be set up with the three separate geographical areas as participants. Currently, staff are working on the assumption that three separate referendums will need to be conducted. If there is only one service, it will be more cost effective to conduct the assent, however the taxation rate would also be blended and the costs would be higher in the North and South Shuswap and less in Falkland, unless a cost apportionment is included in the service establishment bylaw provisions.

If the referendum fails, the feasibility study fund will absorb the cost at a loss. If the service achieves assent, the new service area(s) will have to pay back the actual cost of the referendum in the first fiscal period after the service establishment.

A draft budget for the services has been completed (attached) including feasibility repayment. The first year expenses are higher due to feasibility repayment, equipment purchase and training. Year two costs have been provided to provide a more appropriate expectation of ongoing year-to-year costs and taxation impacts.

Service Area	Budget Yr 1	Taxation per \$1000 of assessment	Budget Yr 2	Taxation per \$1000 of assessment
N. Shuswap	\$123,720	\$.05	\$44,680	\$.02
S. Shuswap	\$134,640	\$.05	\$55,600	\$.02
Falkland	\$118,260	\$.39	\$39,220	\$.13

KEY ISSUES/CONCEPTS:

The Board has expressed concern for the mental wellbeing of the volunteer firefighters attending road rescue calls. Protective Services staff share those concerns and have taken steps to ensure a critical incident stress management system is in place to ensure firefighters have the supports they need to recover from the realities of bad calls.

IMPLEMENTATION:

If the Board agrees with the recommendation, staff will start preparing for a referendum process in the proposed areas. Staff are currently exploring opportunities to create a single sub-regional service consisting of the three geographic areas. Advantages to this approach include:

- Only participants in the service vote on issues affecting the service
- A single referendum for all geographic areas
- Consolidated single budget

Staff will report back to the Board with information on service area options once the feasibility of options is determined.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Upon Board approval a comprehensive communications campaign commensurate with service establishment regulations will be undertaken.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

That the Board endorse the staff recommendation(s).

BOARD'S OPTIONS:

1. *Endorse the Recommendation(s).*
2. *Deny the Recommendation(s).*
3. *Defer.*
4. *Any other action deemed appropriate by the Board.*

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2024-10-17_Board_CPS_Road_Rescue_Services.docx
Attachments:	- 2024-05-07_EAD_CPS_Road_Rescue_Feasibility_Study_Update.pdf - CSRD Road Rescue Feasibility Study - TPA Final.pdf - CSRD Road Rescue Feasibility.pdf - Road Rescue costs .pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 15, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Jodi Pierce



Jennifer Sham

No Signature - Task assigned to John MacLean was completed by assistant Jennifer Sham

John MacLean