



Regional Board Report

Information

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO
Date: March 14, 2024
Subject: Update - Fire Service Review Recommendations

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To receive an update to the status of the 2023 Mitchell and Associates Fire Services Review Recommendations.

Executive Summary:

In 2022 the RDCO retained Mitchell and Associates Ltd. to conduct a third-party independent review of RDCO's Fire Service (the Service Review). The review was received by the RDCO Board on June 22, 2023, and released to the public at the regular meeting on July 6, 2023.

The Service Review included 45 recommendations including, but not limited to, areas of Regulatory Matters, Service and Aid Agreements, Fire Underwriters, Organizational Structure and Staffing, Fire Prevention, Training and Qualifications, and Operating Guidelines.

In August 2023, the Regional Board identified the implementation of fiscally supported recommendations from the Fire Services review as one of the strategic priorities for the 2023-2026 term.

Since presenting the Service Review and inclusive recommendations to the Board, an assessment of the recommendations has been conducted in collaboration with the RDCO Fire Chiefs to prioritize the recommendations from high to low priority. (attachment 1). The assessment has identified areas where multiple recommendations align, and therefore these will be considered and actioned together when appropriate.

Regular updates on the activities related to the Service Review recommendations will be provided to the Board through strategic priorities reporting.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board receive the report Update - Fire Service Review Recommendations from the Director of Corporate Services, dated March 14, 2024, for information.

Report Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Corie Griffiths".

Corie Griffiths,
Director of Corporate Services / Deputy CAO

Approved for Agenda:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sally Ginter".

Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
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Background

The objective of the Service Review was to provide guidance to ensure RDCO Fire Services are providing the most cost-effective operations and meets all legislated safety requirements and mandates of the fire protection service areas.

The Service Review included 45 recommendations including but not limited to areas of Regulatory Matters, Service and Aid Agreements, Fire Underwriters, Organizational Structure and Staffing, Fire Prevention, Training and Qualifications, and Operating Guidelines.

The Service Review contains a series of recommendations based on an assessment of risk and mandatory regulatory requirements compounded by the increasingly hazardous nature of the work undertaken by the Departments.

Current Status

Following the presentation of the Service Review and the recommendations to the Board, the Fire Chiefs of Ellison, Joe Rich, Wilsons Landing, and the North Westside, have worked collaboratively with RDCO Corporate and Financial Services to rank the recommendations. Three criteria were applied: regulatory compliance requirements (mandated), assessment of risk (probability and/or impact), and the ability to implement within approved operational budgets (fiscal restraint).

Hence, the Service Review recommendations, were assigned as high, medium, or low priority. Timelines are unique to each recommendation.

Should actioning recommendations require funding beyond approved operational budgets or ability to secure grant funds, these will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Next Steps

- Using the priority assessment, align recommendations with multiple deliverables into an actionable task with associated timelines.
 - Develop a multiyear work plan while seeking grant opportunities for recommendations
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Considerations:

Financial: Should any of the recommendations require funding beyond approved operational budget, these will be presented to the Board for consideration.

Legal/Statutory Authority: Updates to Bylaw No. 1065 and 1066 will be brought to the board for consideration at future meetings.

Organizational/External: As the multiyear implementation plan is developed considerations both Organizational and External may be identified.

Considerations not applicable:

Alternate Recommendation:

Attachment(s): 1. Fire Services Review Summary of Recommendations – Priority Ratings
2. Summary of recommendations - PPT
