



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Director of Protective Services
Date: September 26, 2024

Subject: Mutual Fire Aid Agreement Renewal – Regional District of Kootenay-Boundary (RDKB) Big White Fire Department and Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) Joe Rich Fire Department

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

Purpose: To consider renewing the Mutual Fire Aid Agreement between the RDKB Big White Fire Department and the RDCO Joe Rich Fire Department

Executive Summary:

In collaboration with the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary, (RDKB), the agreement for the provision of mutual fire aid is proposed to be renewed through to September 30, 2029. Through the proposed agreement, and for mutual benefit of both parties, the Big White Fire Department and the Joe Rich Fire Department will continue to cooperate in the resolution of emergency incidents by providing mutual fire aid when requested by either party.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approve entering into the Mutual Fire Aid Agreement between the Regional District of Central Okanagan (Joe Rich Fire Department) and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (Big White Fire Department), in the form attached to the Report from the Director of Protective Services, dated September 26, 2024;

AND THAT the Regional Board authorizes the Board Chair and Corporate Officer to execute the Mutual Fire Aid Agreement.

Respectfully submitted by: Mike Walroth, Director of Protective Services

Report Approved by: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved for Agenda: Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <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 |

Background:

The Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary have had a Mutual Fire Aid Agreement in place since 2014 to authorize the cooperation between the Big White Fire Department and the Joe Rich Fire Department. This mutually beneficial agreement allows either party to bring in resources, in a timely manner, that may be necessary for suppression of a large incident.

Under the agreement renewal, the ability to share resources between the two fire departments for large suppression incidents will remain in place.

Considerations:

Organizational/External:

The timely deployment of adequate resources for a large or sustained incident is critical. Coordination between two Regional Districts to provision these resources ensures that services are available while remaining fiscally responsible.

Financial:

Cost sharing by avoiding duplication of resources used on a low frequency basis.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

The Regional Board has the authority to enter into agreements with other Regional Districts.

Attachment(s): 1. Mutual Fire Aid Agreement between the Big White Fire Department and the Joe Rich Fire Department – October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2029
