



# Regional Board Report

## Request for Decision

**To:** Regional Board

**From:** Brian Reardon, CAO

**Date:** June 27, 2022

**Subject:** Regional Fire Dispatch Service & Regional Rescue Program Service Agreements

**Voting Entitlement:** *All Directors – Weighted Corporate Vote – Majority (LGA s.209)*

---

**Purpose:** To consider entering into service agreements with the City of Kelowna for the regional fire dispatch service and regional rescue program.

**Executive Summary:**

In collaboration with the City of Kelowna, agreements for the provision of services have been drafted to formalize the current practice and establish parameters and processes for a five-year term. Through the proposed agreements, the City of Kelowna will continue to provide emergency call answer, fire department dispatch services, and after hours' public works call answering services for the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) fire departments, City of Kelowna, City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country; and District of Peachland.

In addition, the City of Kelowna, through the Kelowna Fire Department, will be responsible for administering the RDCO Regional Rescue Program. This includes coordinating the delivery of the seven (7) core services covered under the regional rescue program, including:

- Hazmat
- Low/Steep Embankment Rescue
- High Angle Rescue
- Ice Rescue
- Swift Water Rescue
- Confined Space Rescue
- Auto Extrication

The City of Kelowna has provided a dispatch service and regional rescue program for the RDCO for 30+ years. The two agreements for Board consideration represent the ongoing collaboration between the city and the RDCO that benefit all local governments and residents in the Central Okanagan.

**Recommendation(s):**

**THAT** the Regional Board approve entering into the Regional Fire Dispatch Service and Regional Rescue Program Service Agreements in the forms attached to the report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated June 27, 2022;

**AND THAT** the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the Regional Fire Dispatch Service and Regional Rescue Program Service agreements on behalf of the Regional District.

Respectfully Submitted:



Brian Reardon, CAO

*Prepared by: David Komaika, Director of Engineering Services*

Attachment(s): Professional Services Agreement - Regional Rescue Program Administration  
Professional Services Agreement – Regional Fire Dispatch Service

---

### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

Priorities: Sustainable Communities, Environment

Values: Collaboration, Regional Perspective

---

### **Background:**

#### Regional Fire Dispatch Service

The Regional Fire Dispatch Service was originally established as the 911/Dispatch Agreement in 1986. Since that time, the agreement and scope of work have changed significantly. Over the past 35 years, the 911 Service has moved to a distinct and separate agreement between the RDCO, E-Comm and 8 other Regional Districts, while the Regional Fire Dispatch Service is now localized within the Central Okanagan.

Currently the City of Kelowna provides emergency call answer, fire department dispatch services, and after hours' public works call answering services for the fire departments within the Regional District of Central Okanagan. The proposed Professional Services Agreement for Regional Fire Dispatch will formalize the roles, responsibilities and protocols between the City of Kelowna and the RDCO. The term of the agreement is five years.

#### Regional Rescue Program Administration

The RDCO Regional Rescue Program Administration Supplementary Letters Patent grants the Regional District the power to provide a Regional Rescue Service, which includes Search and Rescue, attending hazardous chemical spills and vehicle accidents, and assisting with the Provincial Emergencies Program. In 1986, the RDCO and the City of Kelowna entered their first "Regional Rescue Service Agreement", where the city provided long-term planning, budgeting, training and coordination of the regional program. This agreement has been revised over the years to reflect the modernization and changes which have occurred to the Regional Rescue Program over the past 30-years.

Under the agreement, the City of Kelowna will continue to provide the Regional Rescue Program with coordination, administration, and expertise. This includes the preparation of the annual budget, the facilitation of training and the standardization of equipment. The city will also appoint an individual to act as the Regional Rescue Administrator who acts as a liaison with not only the RDCO but all fire departments within the Central Okanagan.

---

**Considerations:****Organizational/External:**

Both the Regional Rescue Program and the Regional Fire Dispatch are critical services for the fire departments and the communities they service. Providing these services on a regional basis helps to ensure a coordinated approach to regional issues.

**Financial:**

The costs for these services are shared by all member municipalities based upon the regional funding model.

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

The Regional District has the authority under its Letter Patent to enter into agreements for the provision of Regional Rescue Services on behalf of its member municipalities.

**Alternate Recommendation:**

**THAT** the Regional Board receives the Regional Fire Dispatch Service and Regional Rescue Program Service Agreements report from the from the CAO dated June 27, 2022 for information.

---