



## REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORT

**TO: Finance Committee**

**FROM: Ryan Thoms, Manager of Emergency Services**

**IN COLLABORATION WITH:**

**SUBJECT: Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service Capital Planning: State of Assets Report**

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### ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee recommend the Board accept the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service Asset Management Plan State of Assets Report; and

THAT the Committee recommend the Board reconfirm direction to staff to undertake a public engagement process in 2022 for the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service in order to develop a capital asset management plan and to develop a funding strategy to support that plan.

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### PURPOSE/SUMMARY

To consider the capital asset management planning process for the Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department.

### BACKGROUND

At its February 27, 2020 meeting, the Regional Board adopted the following resolution:

*THAT the Board direct staff to undertake a public engagement process in 2020 for the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service in order to develop and prioritize capital asset management plans and to develop a funding strategy to support those plans; and*

*THAT staff be directed to reallocate \$5,000 from the proposed 2020 statutory reserve fund contribution toward the projected cost of public engagement on Lasqueti Island.*

Within weeks of this resolution the qRD was impacted by the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the delay in several projects including this one. Staff have now been able to resume this work with the intent to complete the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service capital plan by 2022 year end.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:**

Safety Stewardship

**TYPE OF DECISION**

Directive Decision

**HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT/RELATIONSHIP**

The development of asset management plans for fire service facilities and vehicle fleets is consistent with the goals of maintaining safe workplaces for qRD firefighters.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPACT/RELATIONSHIP**

Failing to invest in the necessary maintenance and replacement of fire service facilities and vehicles may expose the qRD to significant risk in its ability to provide sustainable service delivery. Specific risks and consequences could be the failure to meet the service requirements or reduction in the levels of service.

**LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, BYLAW OR POLICY IMPACT/RELATIONSHIP**

The Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service is established by qRD bylaw thereby confirming the qRD as the Authority Having Jurisdiction for the Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department (LIVFD). qRD Policy 3.14 confirms the qRD commitment to capital asset management. qRD Policy 2.9 guides public engagement activities.

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service Asset Management Plan State of Assets Report (attached) provides details about the most significant capital assets currently supporting the LIVFD; specifically the two fire halls and fleet of six fire trucks. In assessing the current state and expected remaining useful life of these assets the report found that the service is currently underfunded and at current funding levels won't be able to support the replacement of these assets. Several of the assets are at, or very near, the end of their useful life.

While the State of Assets Report provides the status of current assets, the report alone cannot guide staff in the development of a capital plan for the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service. Per Policy 3.14 the qRD needs to review and confirm the level of

service that the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service will be expected to provide for the coming years. Many aspects of a local fire protection service are mandated by the provincial Office of the Fire Commissioner, WorkSafeBC, and other regulatory standards. Some aspects of the local fire service may be determined by considering the local conditions and interests of the public that it serves to determine local service levels.

qRD Policy 3.14 establishes the principles for development of asset management plans and says the following regarding defining the levels of service.

#### *5.5 Levels of Service*

- a) Following generally accepted asset management methodologies, qRD will establish, define and continually refine Levels of Service for qRD's Assets that consider the reasonable expectations of citizens of qRD and what they are willing to pay for the service, intergenerational equity, and the capacity of qRD to sustain the Levels of Service;*
- b) At a minimum the established Levels of Service shall meet all legislative, regulatory and statutory requirements;*
- c) qRD will follow standard communication and engagement practices to gain insight into the expectations of qRD's citizens respecting desired Levels of Service;*
- d) Levels of Service alternative options and associated costs will be included in individual service Asset Management Plans; and*
- e) Levels of Service for qRD Assets will gradually be developed, documented and approved by resolution of the Board.*

Staff are proposing to perform a survey of the service area participants to gather public input to inform the capital planning process. The survey will be digital as well as hard copies available on island for people to access if they can't or prefer to not do the digital survey.

The goals of the survey will be to get a sense of the public's expectations for fire service delivery levels on Lasqueti Island as well as the public willingness and ability to pay for the service. The survey will also gauge public sentiment on support for following insurance grading recognition guidelines. The insurance grading system, set by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS), provides guidelines for many aspects of the fire service including fire halls, apparatus, and firefighter training. Successfully meeting insurance grading guidelines can provide benefit to local property owners in the property insurance rates that they pay. Meeting the insurance grading guidelines would help to clarify the fleet's capital plans as it would set the maximum replacement age for fire apparatus at thirty years. Currently most of the apparatus in the LIVFD fleet are too old to meet the insurance grading recognition.

The public survey results will be brought back to the Board later this spring and then will be used to help guide the development of a capital plan. Staff intend to bring a report with a proposed Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service capital plan and funding strategy in time for the beginning of 2023 budget deliberations.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The proposed 2022 LIVFD budget has included \$2,000 to support the public information and engagement identified in this report.

The longer term financial impact of the capital plan will be determined with the funding strategy to meet the capital plan. Staff intend to present the proposed capital plan and funding strategy in time for the 2023 budget meetings.

## **PUBLIC AND/OR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REQUIRED OR PERFORMED**

Public engagement with Lasqueti Island residents is of high importance. Getting an understanding of the service level expectations, the willingness and ability to pay for the service, and interest in following the insurance grading guidelines, will help to guide the capital planning process.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service Asset Management Plan State of Assets Report has confirmed that the service is currently underfunded and the current funding levels won't be able to support the replacement of the service's current capital assets. Accepting this report and engaging the public to determine service level expectations are the recommended steps toward the development of a capital plan to support the Lasqueti Island Fire Protection Service into the future.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

[20220202 Asset Mgmt State of the Assets Report LIVFD](#)

### **Approved By:**

Ryan Thoms, Manager of Emergency Services  
Al Radke, Chief Administrative Officer

### **Status:**

Approved - 07 Feb 2022  
Approved - 07 Feb 2022