



Claresholm

REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: February 10, 2025

CLARESHOLM FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN – 2024-25 UPDATE

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Claresholm Fire Department has been tasked with the development of four-year business plan; this plan will include (but not be limited to):

- Department Structure
- Defining our Core Services
- Core Activities of the Department
- Environment Scan of the Department that will capture Challenges & Opportunities
- A Workplan that will explore current and future projects vital to the continued operational success of the department
- Performance indicators – past, current and future
- Highlighting our most recent Accomplishments and Successes

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:

To ensure we are maintaining our focus on areas such as workplans, adequate & safe staffing levels, finances, and performance indicators; the Fire Chief has provided an annual update to the original business plan approved by Council in 2022.

It should be noted that in this update, the Chief has included a +2 to the +/- FTE Estimates on Page 12 in the *Other* column. This proposed level of service change is being included to allow for more comprehensive planning on both the staffing and operational level of service requirements for the department. To be clear, we are not requesting additional FTE positions – currently. As we know, volunteer staffing levels fluctuate, but it hasn't been until recent years that the department has faced difficulties with recruiting new members. While we have implemented programs such as the Volunteer Firefighter Tax Rebate program, it is too soon to see tangible results from its implementation. Coupled with the difficulty in recruitment of new members, the department also faces the reality that many of our members have had to find employment out of town; thus, limiting their availability to respond. This has the domino effect of then increasing the demand on the members that are in town during typical daytime working hours.

Call volumes and Percentage increases or decreases for the fire response years 2019 – 2024:

<u>Fire Response Year (Nov → Oct)</u>	<u>Call Volume</u>	<u>Percentage +/-</u>
2019-2020	178	N/A
2020-2021	260	↑ 46%
2021-2022	270	↑ 4%
2022-2023	238	↓ 12%
2023-2024	328	↑ 37%

The Department's Business Plan continues to be aligned, as best as possible, with the Town of Claresholm's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Moved by Councilor _____ to approve the Claresholm Fire Department's Business Plan 2024-25 Update

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) Claresholm Fire Department Business Plan 2024 Update.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

- 1.)

PREPARED BY: Craig White – Fire Chief

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: February 3, 2025
