



REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: March 10, 2025

Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement – 2025 Renewal

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The MD of Willow Creek and the Towns of Nanton, Stavely, Claresholm and Fort Macleod have an emergency services agreement that expires in April 2025 and therefore requires review and possibly updating. The agreement was signed in July 2020, with an update coming in August 2021. This agreement comes from ICF consultations and is an extension of the ICF agreement. As such, it contains the same guiding principles of the ICF of respectfulness, reasonableness, appropriateness, affordability, collaboration, etc.

The agreement establishes the Emergency Services Committee, which is responsible for ensuring the agreement is delivered to the participating municipalities. The committee is made up of the CAOs and fire chiefs of the participating communities. This committee structure and activities are described in detail in Schedule D (page 24) of the attached agreement.

The agreement lays out the various responsibilities for emergency management in our respective jurisdictions. The MD is responsible for coordinating the training program, and for contributing 50% of operating costs for the firehalls (currently - up to a maximum of \$9,000/year). There are also provisions governing response areas, response rates, service delivery, mutual aid requests and payroll and some HR matters. The MD provides several pieces of equipment for use (and storage) in each hall.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:

Minor updates and amendments were made during negotiations for this iteration of the contract. Highlights include:

- Harmonization of wages and establishing an annual percentage increase
- Establishing a Jr. Firefighter program across the region
- Increase to annual firehall operating costs to \$12,000 – administration appreciates this contribution to the department and recognizes the numerous other contributions that the MD makes towards the operation of the department.
- MD will contribute \$3000 per year towards the maintenance & upkeep of the Town-owned command vehicles that respond to events within the MD.
- Standardizing & Formalizing Provincial Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) responses.

Council is in favor of working towards wage harmonization, but has requested to do so over a four-year period. That wage scale is included as an attachment to this item.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by Councillor _____ to accept the Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement – 2025 Renewal as presented.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1.) Letter to CAOs
- 2.) Intermunicipal Emergency Services Agreement – Renewal (red edits)
- 3.) Amended Schedule E (red & green edits)
- 4.) 2025-Jan-31 Firefighter Wage Survey
- 5.) T of C 4-year salary schedule

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:

- 1.) MGA Part 17.2 Intermunicipal Collaboration

PREPARED BY: Craig White – Fire Chief

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: March 4, 2025
