

2019 BUDGET REQUEST

Position Title: Emergency Management Specialist

Description: The Emergency Services department would like to add one FTE for the position of **Emergency Management Specialist** to help fulfill the FVRD requirements of the Emergency Programs Act. While doing the Emergency Program Self-Assessment Checklist before and during the preparation for the upcoming Auditor General for Local Government (AGLG) audit it is more than apparent that the emergency program is not fully meeting these requirements. Due to the fact that the emergency services department not only manages the FVRD's emergency program, including Emergency Support Services, but also manages, among other items, administration, training assistance and capital projects management to 7 EA Fire Departments. The day to day workload of the emergency services department does not allow for time to focus on working towards compliance of the act and building resiliency to the program.

This position would be focused on assisting the Emergency Manager with meeting the standards of an emergency program including;

- Developing an FVRD staff Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Business Continuity Plan (BCP) training program.
- Developing an Emergency Support Services (ESS) work plan and training program.
- Becoming part of the FVRD Emergency Management Committee that reviews and updates emergency plans.
- Developing and taking part in EA emergency committees
- Developing an EA community preparedness and awareness program.
- Working with First Nations communities and other regional and sub-regional partners on shared training and response plans.
- Any recommendations that may be provided by the AGLG audit.

This position would also provide on call coverage relief for the Emergency Services Department.

Bringing our emergency program up to date is an important step in preparing for more frequently occurring natural disasters. With the past two years of record wildfires, including the Mt. Hicks fire and many fire starts within the FVRD boundaries, along with spring freshet that had the potential to become a very serious event, the emergency services department has been extremely busy. Smaller localized emergency events occur on a regular basis including debris flows, floods, slides, etc. which also taxes the ability to complete projects. Without further support, emergency services risks falling further behind in regards to meeting the requirements of the Emergency Programs Act and being prepared to respond to events in an appropriate manner. With the fire services also becoming much busier and the introduction of

the Office of the Fire Commissioner's playbook (2015) more support is required by our EA fire departments. The Regional Fire Training Officer Position, which was intended to support the fire departments with this, ended in March of 2017 which has also left a gap in regards to assisting the EA departments.

Rationale: This position would assist the FVRD Emergency Services Department with meeting the standards of the Emergency Program Act along with increasing the availability of the Emergency Services Manager to further assist the EA fire departments and increase wildfire prevention and preparedness initiatives.

Budgetary Impact: The estimated financial impact would be \$86,000 (salary and benefits) which equates to a residential property tax impact of \$1.77 per \$100,000 of assessed value.