

To: CAO for the Regional and Corporate Services Committee

Date: 2019-05-08

From: Stacey Barker, Director of Regional Services

File No: 0870-35

**Subject: Animal Control Shelter Lease**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Fraser Valley Regional District Board authorize its signatories to enter into a lease agreement for the continued use of the City of Chilliwack's Animal Control Shelter located at 44860 Wolfe Road in Chilliwack, in the amount of \$40,000 annually for a term of 5 years.

### STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### BACKGROUND

The Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD) currently provides full Animal Control services to the City of Abbotsford, City of Chilliwack, District of Mission, District of Kent and the Village of Harrison Hot Springs, operated under a sub-regional regulatory bylaw. The FVRD also provides a limited aggressive dog investigation/control service to Electoral Areas D, E, G and H, regulated under a separate bylaw, specific to aggressive dogs. Limited dog apprehension and pound services are also provided to several First Nation communities in the local area by way of contract.

The Community Animal Response & Education (CARE) Centre serves as the program's shelter and centre of operations. Upon assuming regulatory authority for Animal Control in 2012, the FVRD entered into a lease agreement with the City of Chilliwack for the use of the City's shelter and premises located at 44860 Wolfe Road, Chilliwack. The portion of the property where the shelter is located is part of a larger parcel of land that houses the City's Waste Water Treatment Facility.

### DISCUSSION

The FVRD's lease agreement for the use of the City of Chilliwack's Animal Control shelter and surrounding premises is currently set to expire. The FVRD requires the continued use of the City's shelter to ensure continuity of service for its existing program members.

The City of Chilliwack's animal control shelter provides adequate space for animals in the care of the FVRD and is located in a central setting for operations. The City of Chilliwack works closely with FVRD

staff and addresses any repairs or concerns regarding the building in a prompt and safe manner. The City has also taken the shelter into careful consideration while conducting surrounding construction on the new fire training site that is adjacent to the leased area. When construction work is complete, the City will work with the FVRD to address parking requirements and provide basic landscaping to the entry area to improve its curb appeal to the public.

The FVRD has begun to examine long term needs for its Animal Control program, however this research and exploration of possible infrastructure alternatives is still in its infancy. If a new location or facility was pursued it would be in the considerable future (>5 years) and would be presented to the Board for its consideration through a business case.

### **COST**

The City of Chilliwack is proposing the same rental rate of \$40,000 annually that has been in place for the past 6 years, all on the same terms and conditions. This yearly dollar amount has been accounted for in the approved 5 year financial plan.

### **CONCLUSION**

The City of Chilliwack's shelter provides the FVRD's Animal Control program with adequate kennel space in a location that allows for easy access to all FVRD service areas and is provided at a rental cost that is affordable for its intended purpose. Therefore it is recommended that the FVRD continues its lease agreement with the City for an additional 5 year term.

### **COMMENTS BY:**

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services**

Reviewed and supported.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer**

Reviewed and supported.