

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee
From: Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

Date: 2019-10-08
File No: 7130-25

Subject: Public Emergency Alerting System

INTENT

This report is intended to advise the Electoral Area Services Committee that the Emergency Services Department will be implementing a public emergency alerting system.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

BACKGROUND

The increased prevalence of emergencies resulting in risk to life safety has led to heightened awareness of the need for public alerting systems. Currently, the FVRD does not have a public alerting system and relies upon our social media and website to inform public of emergencies.

DISCUSSION

The public alerting system "Alertable" is the only public alerting system in Canada that has a two-way communication path to the Canadian Public Alerting System (CPAS). Alertable enables our emergency public alerting to be pushed via an app, radio, television, social media, and internet. Messaging is designed to be short, impactful, and geo-targeted to areas facing current emergencies.

Launching a public alerting system aligns with our recent Emergency Management audit performed by the Auditor General for Local Government by providing a platform for consistent and proactive emergency messaging to our general public reaching the broadest intended audience possible, in the timeliest manner possible.

COST

Alertable is being provided to all local authorities in BC free for a 12 month term with an open cancellation policy. If the staff recommendation is to continue the use of the platform beyond the free service offering, fees would be anticipated and cost sharing would be discussed with other FVRD members. Staff would then bring forth to EASC for consideration of using Alertable as a permanent solution. There are no costs associated with this report.

COMMENTS BY:

Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services

Reviewed and supported.

Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services

Reviewed and supported. Any future costs associated with Alertable would be presented to the Committee for consideration prior to moving forward as a permanent solution.

Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Reviewed and supported.