August 18, 2020 Agenda

### **SMOKY LAKE COUNTY**

A G E N D A: County Council Meeting to be held for the Purpose of the Fire Protective Services Committee to be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 9:00 o'clock A.M.

Virtual through Zoom Platform – Smoky Lake

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82022437577?pwd=QVBYRUxLRWdHa0FvMk9vVVBiSHp5dz09

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

1. Meeting:

1.1 Call to Order.

2. Agenda:

Acceptance of Agenda: as presented or subject to additions or deletions

3. Minutes:

3.1 Adopt **minutes** of **June 16, 2020** – Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting. ©

Recommendation: Motion to Adopt.

3.2 Fire Protective Services Committee June 16, 2020 - Action List. ©

Recommendation: File for Information.

- 4. Request for Decision:
  - 4.1 Smoky Lake Fire Department Storage Building. ©
  - 4.2 Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority 911 Dispatching. ©
- 5. Issues for Information:
  - 5.1 Manager Report. ©
- 6. Correspondence:
  - 6.1 Adrienne South, Press Secretary, Labour and Immigration: Government of Alberta. Email dated August 11, 2020 Re: Supporting Fire Responded Mental Health. ©

Recommendation: Acknowledge receipt.

7. <u>Delegation(s):</u>

7.1

8. Executive Session:

8 1

9. Date and time of Next Meeting(s):

Adjournment

Fire Protective Services June 16, 2020



### SMOKY LAKE COUNTY

Minutes of the Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 11:32 A.M. held virtually online through Electronic Communication Technology: Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to Order by Chairperson, Craig Lukinuk in the presence of the following persons:

		ATTENDANCE
Div. No.	Councillor(s)	Tuesday, June 16, 2020
1	Dan Gawalko	Virtually - Present
2	Johnny Cherniwchan	Virtually - Present
3	Craig Lukinuk	Virtually - Present
4	Lorne Halisky	Virtually - Present
5	Randy Orichowski	Virtually - Present
CAO	Cory Ollikka	Virtually - Present
Asst. CAO	Lydia Cielin	Virtually - Present
Finance Manager	Brenda Adamson	Virtually - Present
Fire Chief	Scott Franchuk	Virtually - Present
Fire Protect. Srvc. Asst.	Spencer Kotylak	Absent
Legislative Svcs/R.S.	Patti Priest	Virtually - Present
******	*******	*******

One Member of the Public in virtual attendance.

One Member of the Media in virtual attendance: Smoky Lake Signal.

### 2. Agenda:

860-20: Halisky

That the Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting Agenda for Tuesday, June 16, 2020, be adopted, as amended:

### Addition to the Agenda:

1. Sale of Surplus VHF Radios.

Carried Unanimously.

### 3. Minutes:

861-20: Gawalko

That the Minutes of the Smoky Lake County Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, be adopted as presented.

Carried.

862-20: Cherniwchan

That the Action List from the Smoky Lake County Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, be filed for information.

Carried.

### 4. Request for Decision:

### Junior Firefighters Summer Day Camp

863-20: Cherniwchan

That Smoky Lake County cancel the 2020 Junior Firefighter Summer Day Camp scheduled for July 6-10, 2020 and carry forward the Year-2020 Junior Firefighter Summer Day Camp budget to Year-2021.

Carried.

### Sale of Surplus VHF Radios

864-20: Halisky

That Smoky Lake County Council **defer** to the Regional Fire and Rescue Committee to discuss the sale of surplus VHF radios, for the purpose of determining the number of radios to be sold as well as the price per radio and to whom they will be sold to, at the next Regional Fire and Rescue Committee Meeting scheduled for July 24, 2020.

Carried.

Dave Franchuk, Environmental Operations Manager, virtually joined the meeting, time 11:49 a.m.

Spencer Kotylak, Deputy Fire Chief, virtually joined the meeting, time 11:52 a.m.

### 5. Issues for Information:

### Fire Chief's Report

### Accredited Fire Safety Codes Officer and Fire Investigators

865-20: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County approve for Fire Chief: Scott Franchuk, to enter into the Accredited Fire Safety Codes Officer training and Fire Investigators mentoring through Sturgeon County and the Province of Alberta and, Deputy Fire Chief: Spencer Kotylak, consecutively proceed with same.

Carried.

### Fire Chief's Report

866-20: Halisky

That the Smoky Lake County Fire Chief's Report prepared by Fire Chief: Scott Franchuk, dated June 9, 2020, be accepted as presented and filed for information.

Carried.

### 6. Correspondence:

## Fire Investigation Association of Alberta (FIAA) National Wildfire Investigation Workshop

867-20: Cherniwchan

That Smoky Lake County Council approve action taken by Fire Chief in agreeing to present at the FIAA National Wildfire Investigation Workshop scheduled for November 24-26, 2020 to be held in Nisku, Alberta; and approve for the Fire Chief and one (1) relevant staff member to attend the event.

Carried.

### **Thorhild County**

868-20: Orichowski

That Smoky Lake County provide a endorsement letter to Thorhild County in regards to the Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System (AFRRCS), as a user of the AFRRCS since November 2018, for the excellent communication coverage and operational cost savings for the fire departments as requested in the email received from Dave Fiddler, Fire Chief, Thorhild County, dated June 2, 2020; and advise Thorhild County of four (4) available AFRRCS radios to be sold at cost.

Carried.

### North East Regional Technical Advisor

869-20: Gawalko

That the correspondence received by Smoky Lake County from the Province of Alberta's North East Regional Technical Advisor: Terri Savitsky, dated June 9, 2020, in regard to Regional Boundary Changes for the Community and Technical Service advising Keven Thomson is the new North East Regional Technical Advisor, Corporate and Technical Support in respect to safety codes, fire inspections/investigations and load occupancies for non-accredited municipalities, be acknowledged for reference.

Carried.

### 7. Delegation:

No Delegation.

### 8. Executive Session:

Personnel - Vilna and District Volunteer Fire Department Members

870-20: Orichowski

That Smoky Lake County Council go into Executive Session, for the purpose of discussing a Personnel Issue in respect to the health and safety of the Vilna and District Volunteer Fire Department Members and the public, under the authority of FOIP Act: Section 18: Individual or Public Safety, time 12:24 p.m.

Carried.

871-20: Orichowski

That Smoky Lake County Council go out of Executive Session, time

1:07 p.m.

Carried.

Joint Council Meeting with Village of Vilna

872-20: Gawalko

That Smoky Lake County schedule a **Joint Smoky Lake County and Village of Vilna Council meeting** for Friday, June 19, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. or alternatively on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., to be held Virtually and/or in the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

**Next Meeting** 

873-20: Halisky

The next Smoky Lake County <u>Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting</u> be scheduled for <u>Tuesday</u>, <u>August 18, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.</u> to be held Virtually and/or in the County Council Chambers.

Carried.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

874-20: Lukinuk

That the Smoky Lake County Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting of June 16, 2020, be adjourned, time 1:08 p.m.

Carried.

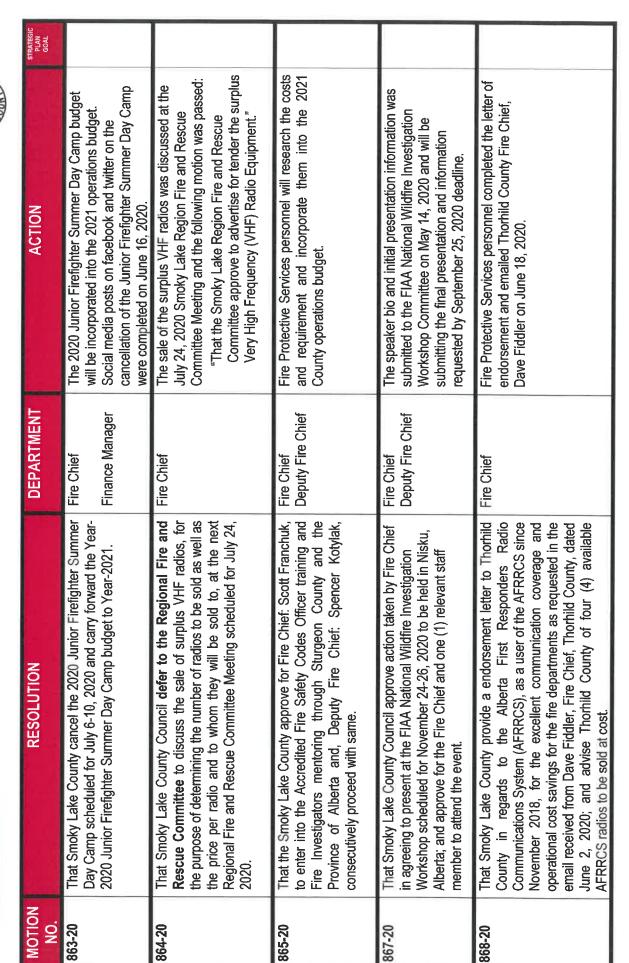
CHAIRMAN

SEAL

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

# **ACTION LIST:**

# June 16, 2020 Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting





# ACTION LIST: June 16, 2020 Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting



MOTION NO.	RESOLUTION	DEPARTMENT	ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL
872-20	That Smoky Lake County schedule a Joint Smoky Lake County and Legislative Village of Vilna Council meeting for Friday, June 19, 2020 at 1:00 Services p.m. or alternatively on Monday, June 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m., to be held Virtually and/or in the County Council Chambers.	Legislative Services	Legislative Services contacted Village of Vilna and confirmed Monday, June 22, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. as the date for the meeting as per motion #872-20, and prepared an agenda with an <b>Executive Session</b> :  Personnel Issue in respect to the health and safety of the Vilna and District Volunteer Fire Department Members and the public, under the authority of FOIP Act: Section 18: Individual or Public Safety.

Chief Administrative Officer



### **REQUEST FOR DECISION**

DATE

August 18, 2020

4.1

TOPIC

### **Smoky Lake Fire Department Storage Building**

### PROPOSAL

### Background:

- Smoky Lake County contracted Whitlock Contracting Ltd. to create standard operating guidelines (SOGs) for the Smoky Lake County Region Emergency Services in 2007.
- Smoky Lake County adopted the SOGs in July of 2007 at the Agricultural Service Board Meeting.
- Included in the SOGs was a capital replacement plan which had Smoky Lake Fire Hall scheduled to be replaced in 2014.

### **Current:**

- At the July 24, 2020 Smoky Lake Region Fire and Rescue Committee meeting pictures and information was brought forward of an 80' x 100' storage building that Councillors Lukinuk and Cherniwchan visited. See Attachment 1
- At the July 24, 2020 Smoky Lake Region Fire and Rescue Committee meeting the following motion was passed after discussion of storage building information.

**Motion 44-20:** "That the Smoky Lake Region Fire and Rescue Committee recommend each respective municipality determine a preferred funding formula for the cost of a Regional Fire Department Storage Building which would be built adjacent to existing fire hall in Smoky Lake, at a cost up to a maximum amount of \$400,000."

### Proposal:

- Smoky Lake County Emergency Services personnel completed Needs Assessment for the Smoky Lake Fire Department and determined at 50' x 100' storage building will accommodate all fire apparatus to be housed in one location as seen on the proposed draft sketch for the storage building for the Smoky Lake Fire Department. See Attachment 2
- Smoky Lake County Emergency Services personnel contacted Vantage Builders Ltd and Goodon Industries Ltd for quotes on a 50' x 100' storage building. See attachment 3
- Preliminary discussions with the Town of Smoky Lake Planning Department have started but direction and Council input is needed to go forward with the project.
- Smoky Lake County Emergency Services personnel contacted Brian from Lamont County who built an 80' x 100' storage building and strongly recommended to not use CIA Building Ltd due to poor quality of work.
- On August 5, 2020 Smoky Lake County Fire Chief received an email from Crystal Letwin – Finance Assistant/Legislative Services, Town of Smoky Lake of the following motion passed at August 4, 2020 Town of Smoky Lake Council Meeting:

MOTION: 496-2020: "That Town of Smoky Lake agree on the cost sharing funding formula options No.1 and No.3 for the proposed Regional Fire Department Storage Building: Option No.1 - Based on a 60/40 Split: Smoky Lake County = \$240,000.00 and Town = \$160,000.00 and Option No.3 - Based on Population: Smoky Lake County = \$287,416.06 and Town = \$112,583.94 for a grand total amount of \$400,000.00; and Administration forward the preferred options to the Smoky Lake Regional Fire & Rescue Committee."

CORRELATION	TO BUSII	NESS (STRA	ATEGIC) PLAN
LEGISLATIVE, B		d/or	Policy 02-15-01 Fire Department Standard Operation Guidelines
POLICY IMPLICA	ATIONS		Bylaw 1311-18 Joint Operations Agreement
BENEFITS	- 1	Γο provide reso	ources for firefighters
DISADVANTAGI	ES		
ALTERNATIVES			
FINANCE/BUDG	ET IMPL	ICATIONS	
Operating Costs:	:		Capital Costs:
Budget Available	e: <u>\$40</u>	00,000.00	Source of Funds: MO
Budgeted Costs:	_ <u>R</u>	eserves – 1,	.500,000.00 Unbudgeted Costs:
INTERGOVERNI	<b>MENTAL</b>		
INVOLVEMENT/	IMPLICA	TIONS	
COMMUNICATION	ON STRA	TEGY	

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1. Council's direction on funding formula.
- 2. That Smoky Lake County schedule a Joint Town and County meeting to discuss the concept and approval of this project.

Fire Chief











	Smoky Lake Fire Hall	Hall	
Description	Fire Hall Dimensions	Fire Apparatus Dimensions	
Rescue 407 Bay 1	37' x 16 '	26' 10" x 8' 4"	
Engine 459 Bay 2	37' x 16 '	34'8" x 8' 6"	
Engine 405 Bay 3	37' x 12'	32' 4" x 8' 7"	
	Smoky Lake Fire De	Smoky Lake Fire Department Storage Building	Ilding
Company	CIA Building LTD	Vantage Building LTD	Goodon Industries LTD
Dimensions	80' x 100'	50' x 100'	54' x 100'
Construction	Stick build with 6" foundation	Stick build with 6" foundation	Pole Shed with 5" floating flood
Building Cost	425,000.00	475,000.00 - 525,000.00	215,500.00
Electrical	included	included	not included
Building Permit	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Electrical Permit	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Plumbing Permit	750.00	750.00	750.00
Gas Permit	250.00	250.00	250.00
Asphalt pad	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Smok	Smoky Lake Fire Departme	Department Apparatus	
Fire Apparatus	Demensions	Description	
Engine 405	L-32'1" W-8'7" H-9'7"	1998 Freightliner FL80	
Rescue 407	L-26'10" W-8'4" H-8'10"	2001 Ford F-550	
Command 410	L-20' W-6'2" H-7'	2015 GMC Sierra 2500 HD	
Command 410A	L-20' 6" W- 6'6" H-7'2"	2020 GMC Sierra 2500 HD	
UTV 421	L-12'5" W-6'3" H-5'	2010 Polaris Ranger 6X6	
Command Post 414A	L-36'9" W-8'6" H-10'8"	2009 Keystone Trailer	
Rapid Attack 445	L-18'10" W-8'6" H-8'7"	1997 Ford F700	
UTV Trailer 454	L-30' W-8'6" H-9'6"	2012 Interstate Car Hauler Trailer	
Command 458	L-18'10" W-6'7" H-6'10"	2002 Dodge Ram 1500	
Engine 459	L-34'8" W-8'6" H-10'11"	2014 Freightliner M2	
Rapid Attack 470	L-22'2" W-8'1" H-8'4"	2002 Ford F-550	
Rehab 488	L-21'10" W-8'6" H-8'	2005 Ford E-550	



# GOODON INDUSTRIES LTD.

Box 777, Boissevain, MB, R0K 0E0 Call Toll Free 1-800-665-0470 Phone: 204-534-2468 Fax: 204-534-2267 www.goodon.com

 Scott Franchuk
 Quote#: 2008040

 Smoky Lake, AB
 Date: August 11, 2020

 Ph: 780-656-3730
 Quote valid for 30 days

 Cell: 780-650-5410

Em: sfranchuk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Scott,

Based on our recent conversation, I am pleased to present you with a quote for material supply and construction on a 54'x100'x14' Laminated Post frame building. The specifications included in the quotation package are listed below.

### **Specifications:**

4 ply 2"x 6" laminated poles with pressure treated bottoms @ 4' o.c.

Commercial Engineered trusses @ 4' o.c.

28ga industry leading High tensile colored metal walls, colored metal roof

2"x 6" strapping on walls and 2"x 6" strapping on roof @ 2' o.c.

5 - 12'(W)x 12'(H) overhead door with R16 insulation, electric operator, side wall

4 - 3' insulated steel walk in door(s)

8 - Gable vents

All hardware to complete

Total delivered price - \$105,000.00
Labor to erect - Included
Colored metal - Included
G.S.T. - Extra

**Structural Blueprints - Commercial Design** 

24" overhang with soffit add \$6,500.00

Included required by county for permits

5" concrete floor with two sumps add \$62,000.00

### **Interior Insulation Package:**

R28 walls, R50 ceiling

Vapor barrier, 2"x 4" strapping on walls

White metal lining on walls and ceiling

Price- \$42,000.00

Labor- Included

Attic Hatch

There may also be drywall requirements by code depending on location of building to property lines and/or other structures. Site plan and/or site visit would be required to determine the requirements.

**NOTE.** With a **20%** deposit you will secure your spot for 2020 and lock in the price.

Alain Turcotte Ph: (780) 975-3748
Sales Fx: (780) 665-7050
Goodon Industries Em: al@goodon.com



Phone (780) 632-3422

Fax (780) 632-6710

4723-45Av Vegreville Alberta

Smoky Lake County 4612 McDougall Dr. Smoky Lake, AB T0A 3C0

August 10, 2020

Attention: Scott Franchuk

RE: This is a Class B Budget (+ or -10%), built from similar previous projects (This is not an actual quote)

- 1. 1-50x100x14 Building Extension
  - Concrete ICF grade beam foundation on screw piles
  - Wood construction
  - Metal clad on outside
  - Insulated and finished metal clad inside
  - Overhead doors, Concrete Floor
  - Electrical, Mechanical
  - Drawings and engineering

Total Price: \$475,000-\$525,000

Please note that the following items listed below are not included in the quoted price:

- 1. GST
- 2. Site Work and Site Services

Thank you, for the opportunity and considering us for your building needs.

Paul Ziprick,
Commercial, Agricultural, Sales
Vantage Builders Ltd.
Office-780-632-3422
Cell- 780-208-0255
paul.ziprick@vantagebuilders.ca



### **REQUEST OF DECISION**

DATE

August 18, 2020

4.2

### **TOPIC**

### **Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority 911 Dispatching**

### **Background**

- January 1, 2011 Smoky Lake Region switched 911 service provider from Strathcona County to Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority as part of the new emergency communication system Smoky Lake Region was installing.
- Fire Department are dispatched over the Smoky Lake Region emergency radio communication first and then Bonnyville 911 can sent out text notifications on the emergency call.
- Previous Council verbally asked to be included in the text message notification system from Bonnyville 911.
- On October 16, 2017 Smoky Lake County administration requested the 3 outgoing councilors be removed for the 911 text notification system.
- Smoky Lake County Fire Chief received a confirmation email from Bonnyville
   911 on October 20, 2017 that the 3 numbers were removed from the system.
- Since December 2017, Smoky Lake County and Bonnyville 911 have received complaints that non fire department members are receiving text messages for emergency calls. (1 member from Waskatenau, 2 members from Smoky Lake and 2 members from Vilna) due to personal phone numbers changing.
- On January 19, 2018 Smoky Lake County Fire Chief received a phone call from Brian McEvoy – Fire Chief, Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority in regards to a complaint of the services 911 provided to a County resident. The information was shared or shown to the county resident (victim's family member) which is highly sensitive and this information is only given to the fire department members through the text notification system to allow member to request other resources and/or equipment.
- As a result from this complaint Smoky Lake County has received 2 "requests for Information" in regards to the 911 services provided to these families.
- Councillors would show up on scene and interfere with fire department operations and/or contact the fire personnel to find out what is going on or who was involved in the incident.
- On January 22, 2018 Smoky Lake County administration requested Bonnyville 911 to provide the list of names and numbers receiving the 911 text messages.
- On February 5, 2018 Smoky Lake County Fire Chief received an email with all the names and numbers receiving the 911 texts and will be creating an "Active Duty Firefighter" list which qualifies the member to receive 911 text notifications.
- Due to the "sensitivity in nature" of these calls, only fire department
  members and senior administration will receive the text notifications, to
  ensure control and professional ethics are adhere to as reference in the
  Standard Operating Guidelines to mitigate "risk management".
- At the October 22, 2018 Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting the 911 text notification was discussed and the following motion was passed:
   Motion 282-18: "That all Smoky Lake County Councillors be removed from

the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority 911 Dispatch text message notification system going forward."

### **Current:** Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority contracted the 911 text notification system to the Fire Q company which provides fire departments more options in tracking members and allows members to see who is responding and how far away they are from the fire hall. Smoky Lake Fire Department agreed to switch to the new system in August of 2018 and Waskatenau and Vilna Fire Departments are in the process of switching to the Fire Q system. In February of 2020 Fire Q updated it's 911 text notification system which allows members to interact on the app, as well all call information and members responding are tracked through this new program. The new Fire Q program allows Smoky Lake County Emergency Services personnel to control the text messaging and members information access. Proposal: At the July 28, 2020 Departmental Committee Meeting 2 Councillors approached the County Fire Chief asking if the Councillors could start receiving the 911 text notifications again. Smoky Lake County Fire Chief advised both Councillors this issues will be added to the Fire Protective Services Committee Meeting scheduled for August 18, 2020. Note FOIP was contacted on August 13, 2020 to obtain guidance on how providing this information assists elected officials in their role due to the current Council "Code of Conduct" legislation. Information will be provided to Council once the response from FOIP is received. CORRELATION TO BUSINESS (STRATEGIC) PLAN LEGISLATIVE, BYLAW and/or Under the MGA municipalities are required to provide fire suppressions **POLICY IMPLICATIONS** services. BENEFITS Notifies members that are away from the fire radio Is a back-up system if the radios are not working DISADVANTAGES Information is sent to the wrong people FOIP risks **ALTERNATIVES** Access to the 911 texting system is only for active members A Communication and Code of Conduct policies need to be created for the fire departments. FINANCE/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS **Operating Costs: Capital Costs:**

# RECOMMENDATION That Smoky Lake County Council take no action and Motion No. 282 remain in effect due to the "sensitivity in nature" of the "operating procedures" of the Fire Department. Fire Chief

Source of Funds:

**Unbudgeted Costs:** 

**Budget Available:** 

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

INVOLVEMENT/IMPLICATIONS
COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

**Budgeted Costs:** 

\$0.00



# Fire Chief's Report

Report Created On: Aug 14, 2020

### Action 2.3.2

On Track

### Administrative

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:12:04

- · Completed and attended the Smoky Lake Region Fire and Rescue Committee Meeting Agenda packages
- · Working on Smoky Lake Fire Department storage building
- · Working on VHF radio tenders
- · Researching AED pricing and options
- · Completed 7 Alberta Transportation invoices
- · Washing fire gear due to Covid-19 precautions
- · Completed Drone work on the White Earth Creek from RR 170 to Hwy 28
- · Completed Drone work on Twp 620 and RR 133

### Action 2.3.3

On Track

Protective Services

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:12:30

- · 11 fire permits were issued and 4 sites inspected
- · 6 fireworks permits were issued

### Action 2.3.4

On Track

Waskatenau Fire Department

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:13:13

- · Waskatenau Fire responded to 1 structure fire and 3 collisions
- · 16 new SCBA bottles were replaced and the SCBA packs were checked
- · Created 10 more Covid-19 PPE kits for the members
- · Working with the Fire department to switch to the Fire Q text notification system

### Action 2.3.5

On Track

Smoky Lake Fire Department

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:13:36

- Smoky Lake Fire responded to 4 fires, 5 collisions, 3 medicals, 1 fire alarm
- · Smoky Lake Fire hosted 2 training night
- · 23 helmet were ordered and put into service
- · 3 new helmets were ordered and put into service
- · 16 new SCBA bottles were replaced and the SCBA packs were checked
- · Created 10 more Covid-19 PPE kits for the members
- · Working with the Fire Department on the new Fire Q system

### Action 2.3.6

On Track

Vilna Fire Department

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:13:55

- · Vilna Fire responded to 2 fires, 2 collisions, 2 medicals and 2 fire alarms
- · Vilna fire hosted 2 training nights
- · Created 10 more Covid-19 PPE kits for the members
- · 16 new SCBA bottles were replaced and the SCBA packs were checked
- · Working with the Department members in switching to the Fire Q text notification system

### Action 2.3.8

On Track

**Training** 

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 15:57:05

No training scheduled due to Covid-19

### Action 2.3.9

On Track

Council Member Inquiry

Update provided by Scott Franchuk on Aug 14, 2020 19:14:32

2 Council members asked to review the Bonnyville Regional Fire Authority 911 Dispatching notification system

### scott franchuk

From: lydia cielin

**Sent:** August 12, 2020 11:13 AM

**To:** scott franchuk

Cc: Patti Priest; Spencer Kotylak

**Subject:** Fw: News Release: Supporting first responders' mental health

Please include on your agenda.

Sent from my BlackBerry - the most secure mobile device - via the TELUS Network

From: patti.priest@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Sent: August 11, 2020 2:16 PM

To: sfranchuk@smokylakecounty.ab.ca; skotylak@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Cc: lcielin@smokylakecounty.ab.ca

Subject: FW: News Release: Supporting first responders' mental health

FYI...

From: alberta.news@gov.ab.ca <alberta.news@gov.ab.ca>

Sent: August 11, 2020 2:05 PM

To: Patti Priest <patti.priest@smokylakecounty.ab.ca>

Subject: News Release: Supporting first responders' mental health

# Supporting first responders' mental health

August 11, 2020 Media inquiries

Over the next three years, \$4.5 million will support mental health treatment for first responders, including leading-edge research, prevention and stigma reduction.

Alberta firefighters, police officers, paramedics, sheriffs, corrections officers and emergency health-care workers put their lives on the line daily to keep Albertans safe. Alberta's government is committed to providing additional mental health supports to better equip first responders to manage post-traumatic stress injuries.

Grants totaling \$1.5 million per year will be awarded to non-profit organizations and researchers working to improve first responder mental health. Applications to the Supporting Psychological Health in First Responders grant will be open until Sept. 20.

From 2014 to 2018, there were 450 Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) claims for first responders related to post-traumatic stress injuries. These claims represent the suffering and challenges faced by Alberta's heroes, their families, friends and communities.



"First responders put their lives on the line every day to protect Albertans and we are committed to ensuring services and treatments are available to treat and prevent post-traumatic stress injuries. This grant program will fund non-profit organizations and researchers to improve the programs and ensure supports are available."

Jason Copping, Minister of Labour and Immigration

"Alberta's government continues to improve access to high-quality care and supports for mental health issues. Healthy first responders and emergency health-care workers ensure our communities, families and friends remain safe and healthy."

Jason Luan, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions

"It is important we keep first responders as healthy as possible so they can continue to protect the citizens of our province each day. Investing in leading-edge and evidence-based programs will ensure our members get the best possible care when they need it most. We strive to continually get better and this can only be done through proper research and listening to those officers affected by PTSI."

Dale McFee, president, Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police

"As most Albertans know, paramedics are the ones who meet you in some of the worst moments you'll ever experience; but what many don't realize is that paramedics can relive those moments over and over with every call. We are grateful for this commitment of additional mental health resources and see this as a crucial acknowledgement of this extensive and complex condition in the first response community."

Dusty Schlitter, president, Alberta College of Paramedics

Alberta's Recovery Plan is a bold, ambitious long-term strategy to build, diversify, and create tens of thousands of jobs now. By building schools, roads and other core infrastructure we are benefiting our communities. By diversifying our economy and attracting investment with Canada's most competitive tax environment, we are putting Alberta on a path for a generation of growth. Albertans came together to save lives by flattening the curve and now we must do the same to save livelihoods, grow and thrive.

### **Quick facts**

- Alberta's government is committing \$1.5 million per year for three years for the grant program, starting in 2020-21.
- From 2014 to 2018, WCB claims for first responders related to post-traumatic stress injuries cost more than \$55 million.
- · Albertans are served by:

- More than 14,000 full-time, part-time, casual and volunteer firefighters. About 80 per cent are volunteers.
- More than 7,500 police officers.
- o More than 9,400 paramedics.
- o More than 770 sheriffs.
- o More than 1,500 corrections officers.

### Related information

- First responders' mental health grants
- Psychological hazards in the workplace
- Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment



## Media inquiries

### **Adrienne South**

780-293-4684 Press Secretary, Labour and Immigration

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