



BOW HORN BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (SCBA) PURCHASE

RECOMMENDATION

That the 5-year short-term borrowing of \$350,000 be authorized for the purchase of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus in accordance with the approved 2022-2026 Financial Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department (BHBVFD) recently hired a new Fire Chief in 2019 and had a complete change in Society Board of Directors in 2020. The new Board and Chief commenced capital asset planning in late 2020, as this was not done in the past. The department has finalized their capital asset replacement plan which identified roughly 1.6 million in capital expenditures over the next five years. As reserve contributions have not kept up with asset replacement, the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) and BHBVFD have explored opportunities to prioritize assets while ensuring legislative requirements and community needs are met and reducing overall capital expenditures.

As per the approved 2022-2026 Financial Plan, the Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department has budgeted \$350,000 from borrowing for replacement of the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). The SCBAs are critical to firefighter safety and a requirement to be compliant with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards and Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. Useful life of SCBA equipment is 15 years. The Bow Horn Bay SCBA reached 15 years in 2021 and through testing was recommended for immediate replacement (within two years). With the approved 2022-2026 Financial Plan, BHBVFD would like to immediately replace the SCBA to maintain the safety of the volunteer responders.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the purchase of a used apparatus in 2021 and savings of \$405,440, the department can purchase the SCBA in 2022 for \$350,000 without an additional increase to rate payers.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Growth Management - Fully develop our Asset Management Plan.

REVIEWED BY:

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