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<b>TO:</b>	Committee of the Whole	<b>MEETING:</b>	November 20, 2018
<b>FROM:</b>	Catherine Morrison Manager, Emergency Services	<b>FILE:</b>	2240-20 ARA
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Fire Services Automatic Response Agreement Renewal			

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Automatic Response Agreement for a five-year term from March 1, 2018 to March 1, 2023 be approved.

## **SUMMARY**

The current Automatic Response Agreement expires on November 30, 2018, and is between the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), representing various fire department societies. There are two additional fire societies, Nanoose Bay and Bow Horn Bay, proposed to become parties to the agreement. There are no other changes to the agreement.

The fire department societies representing the following fire departments: Errington, Coombs/Hilliers, Dashwood, Nanoose Bay, Bow-Horn Bay; the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum have executed the agreement.

## **BACKGROUND**

Since 2008, the Automatic Response Agreement has been in place to ensure that sufficient initial resources are deployed to an emergency incident. 'Automatic Response' means the immediate dispatching of resources to emergency incidents; the guidelines for the dispatch of these resources are outlined in the attached agreement. The agreement includes a list of locations that trigger an automatic response, as well as a specific list of resources required for each incident.

Automatic Response Agreements assist each department in being able to respond with the appropriate resources as recommended by the Fire Underwriters Survey. This response is especially important during daytime responses when there are limited members available to respond to the initial emergency call.

As part of the agreement, a representative from each fire department makes up 'The Operating Committee' as outlined in Section 2 and is tasked with ensuring the Schedules identifying resources and automatic response locations are kept updated.

## ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Automatic Response Agreement Renewal with the addition of two fire departments, Nanoose Bay Volunteer Fire Department and Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department, for a five-year term from March 1, 2018 to March 1, 2023, be approved.
2. That alternate direction be provided.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS


It is anticipated the overall cost of implementing this agreement will remain fairly revenue neutral as RDN Fire Departments would be responding to incidents in other areas and vice versa.

If the agreement were to be amended, legal costs and resource time would need to be allotted to make changes, complete the review and secondary signing process. The Nanoose Bay and Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Departments would continue to work under the Mutual Aid Agreement until a new Automatic Response Agreement was ready. There could be potential delays in additional equipment and resources being requested depending on the experience level of the Duty Officer at the time of the incident.

If the agreement is not renewed, each department would revert to the use of the Mutual Aid Agreement which has similar cost recovery requirements. The Mutual Aid Agreement however, would create a potential time delay in additional equipment being requested. Depending on the nature of the incident, a delayed initial response of adequate equipment to the emergency location could have a significant impact on the outcome of the incident.

## STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - We View Our Emergency Services As Core Elements Of Community Safety



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October 25, 2018

Reviewed by:

- D. Pearce, Director, Transportation and Emergency Services
- P. Carlyle, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment

1. Attachment 1 – 2018-23 Automatic Response Agreement RDN, Parksville, QB, Fire Department Societies