

**Date** April 28, 2026  
**Author** Christina Carbrey, Protective Services Manager  
**Subject** Upper Elk Valley Fire Protection Agreement Renewal

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## REQUEST

Approve the renewal of the agreement between the RDEK and the District of Sparwood for the provision of rural fire services in the Upper Elk Valley Fire Protection Area for an additional five-year term.

## OPTIONS

1. THAT the Chair and CAO be authorized to sign an agreement with the District of Sparwood to provide fire protection services for the Upper Elk Valley Fire Protection Service for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030.
2. THAT the Chair and CAO be authorized to sign an agreement with the District of Sparwood to provide fire protection services for the Upper Elk Valley Fire Protection Service for the term January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2030, with the following amendments: \_\_\_\_\_.

## RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

## BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The existing agreement between the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK) and the District of Sparwood (Sparwood) for the provision of rural fire protection services was extended to December 31, 2025.

Since Fall 2024, the RDEK and Sparwood have been in negotiations to finalize an agreement for a further five years. Terms have now been agreed upon to continue service, with a few changes.

The parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows:

- A. **Section 3 Term:** The term of the Agreement is January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2030. Following the end of this contract if a new agreement has not been completed the contract will transition to month to month.
- B. **Schedule A & Section 1.1 Definitions & Section 4 - Services:** Removed Road Rescue Services along Highway 43. Sparwood will continue to respond to Road Rescue incidents along Highway 43 that meet the criteria under Provincial Policy 2.07 Out-of-Jurisdiction Rescue which allows them to recoup costs under the task recovery program.

- C. **Section 4.6 Hydrants / Underground Water Tank:** Clarified ongoing maintenance and servicing of the underground water tank located at the Elk Valley Airport is the responsibility of Sparwood and will become part of Sparwood's operating budget to a maximum of \$1,000 annually.
- D. **Section 4.7 Fire Safety Act Investigations & Inspections:** Included, support for investigations and inspections will be requested through the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) as needed under the Regional District's complaint-driven model. Sparwood is not required to preform investigations or inspections under this agreement.
- E. **Section 10 Payment for Services**
- 10.1** The RDEK will pay Sparwood for fire protection services, \$88,000 in year one of the agreement. This includes a capital allowance for equipment replacement but excludes major renovations to or construction of fire halls.
- 10.2** In subsequent years the RDEK will pay Sparwood for Fire Protections Services an amount adjusted by the percentage increase in Sparwood's budgeted operating expenditures for its fire services, in accordance with the agreed upon formula.
- 10.3** The RDEK agrees to pay Sparwood a 5% share of the cost of major renovations to or construction of fire halls in accordance with the agreed upon formula.
- 10.5** No later than February 15th in each year of the Term, Sparwood will invoice the RDEK for the Fire Protection Services. The RDEK will pay the invoice by August 15th of the year in which the invoice was received.

## SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

### Bylaw

RDEK Bylaw No. 2183 established the Upper Elk valley Fire Protection Service Area within the defined portions of Electoral Area A to provide fire protection services on a contractual basis with the District of Sparwood.

### Financial

The adopted 2026-2030 Five-year Financial Plan includes sufficient budgeted expenditures to cover the year 1 municipal contract payment for services.

Sparwood will provide the RDEK with an estimate of the amount to be invoiced in the following year to assist the RDEK with budget preparation. The 2027 Financial Plan will be adjusted to DOS's estimates.

The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned annually for the service under Section 2 of Bylaw No. 2183 shall be \$2.65 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value. The tax rates calculated for the adopted 2026-2030 Five-year Financial Plan does not exceed the maximum requisition.

### Attachment

- Upper Elk Valley Fire Protection Services Agreement