



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** July 15, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 Board

**TO:** Chair and Directors,  
Regional Board

**FROM:** Dave Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** **CORTES ISLAND WILDFIRE BRIGADE**

### **PURPOSE/PROBLEM**

To consider a recommendation from the Electoral Areas Services Committee that the Regional District work with the Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association (CIFFA) to obtain further information pertaining to the proposed wildfire brigade service and report back to the Electoral Areas Services Committee.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The following resolution was passed at the July 10, 2024 meeting of the Electoral Areas Services Committee:

Vonesch/Mawhinney: EASC 225/24

THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District work with the CIFFA to obtain additional details, such as better defining the scope of the proposed service, and report back to the Electoral Area Services Committee..

The following actions are offered in support of the Committee's recommendation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT the Regional District work with the Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association (CIFFA) to obtain additional details, such as better defining the scope of the proposed service, and report back to the Electoral Area Services Committee.

Respectfully:



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Dave Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Prepared by:** E. Watson, Manager, Corporate Operations

**Attachment:** July 7, 2024 report to the Electoral Areas Services Committee



## STAFF REPORT

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**DATE:** July 7, 2024 **FILE:** 0550-04 EASC

**TO:** Chair and Directors,  
Electoral Area Services Committee

**FROM:** Dave Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**RE:** CORTES ISLAND WILDFIRE BRIGADE

### PURPOSE

To consider a request from the Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association (CIFFA) that the current fire protection contract be amended to allow for the provision of a wildfire brigade service

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Regional District has received correspondence from the CIFFA indicating that it wishes to provide a wildfire brigade service to Cortes Island. The current agreement between the CIFFA and the Regional District does not contemplate the use of Regional District resources for the proposed wildfire brigade service. However, a stipulation in the current contract with the CIFFA states that the CIFFA may, if authorized by a provincial agency, engage in wildfire suppression outside of its service area provided that:

- the insurance requirements of the agreement remain in effect throughout the duration of the suppression activity;
- all funding received for use of apparatus and equipment provided by the Regional District shall accrue to the Regional District; and
- the standards of service provided to service recipients under the agreement will not be compromised as a result of such activity.

The CIFFA estimates minimal budgetary impacts to provide a wildfire brigade service, however it is normal to have an agreement between the Ministry of Forests and the local government whereby the Province reimburses costs for providing such services.

### ALTERNATIVES

The following options are offered for the Committee's consideration:

Option A – That the Committee recommend that the Regional District work with the CIFFA to obtain additional details, such as better defining the scope of the proposed service, and report back to the Electoral Area Services Committee.

Option B – THAT the Committee recommend that the Regional District advise the CIFFA that it is not interested in pursuing an agreement to provide wildfire brigade service for Cortes Island.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.

2. THAT the Committee recommend Option \_\_\_ as contained in the July 7, 2024 report from the Chief Administrative Officer.

Respectfully,



David Leitch  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Prepared by:** S. Koopman – Manager of Emergency Services

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Attachment A – Correspondence from the Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association



**Cortes Island Fire Fighting Association**

Box #2, 959 Beasley Road  
Manson's Landing B.C. VOP 1K0  
Tel: 250 935-6779 | Email: chief@cortesfire.org

Hello Shaun,

The CIFFA would like to transition our grant funded wildfire brigade program to become an ongoing part of the fire protection we provide to Cortes Island under our service contract with the regional district.

We anticipate the ongoing cost of operating the brigade to be minimal in relation to the service provided, and include details below.

We have funded the program development from our 2023 and 2024 BC Gaming grants, and have trained and equipped 22 members to date, of whom 4 subsequently joined as regular department members. We anticipate grant funding initial costs for 12 more members in 2025, to achieve a fully equipped and trained standing force of 30 members as a starting point for regional district support of the program.

The expected lifespan of the equipment is 10 years, with a portion being replaced each year for budget stability.

As a reserve force, the brigade will deploy only if the officer in charge determines the incident is beyond the capacity of available regular members. As such, they will travel to the scene in personal vehicles, and join the deployment on arrival at the incident command post or staging area. We do not anticipate the brigade leading to any additional costs associated with use of SRD funded vehicles and equipment.

The primary firefighting and structure protection equipment such as pumps, hoses, sprinklers etc. that will be used by brigade personnel alongside regular members during an incident have been acquired through roughly \$50,000 in grant funding as part of our ongoing project to complete a Type 2 Structural Protection Trailer.



2025 Cortes Fire Department Wildfire Brigade Budget Estimate

**Annual costs (30 members)**

Annual certification training	\$2,106.79
Insurance	\$1,830.00
Estimated annual equipment (PPE) replacement cost	\$3,447.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,383.79</b>

**Initial cost per member**

Boots	\$245.00
Gloves	\$12.02
Coveralls	\$633.00
Helmet and goggles	\$80.60
Hotshied respiratory protection	\$168.71
ICS-100 training	\$34.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,173.33</b>

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