



COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

Date: November 28, 2023

From: Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

Subject: **Emergency Equipment Replacement – McDougall Creek Fire**

Report Prepared by: Jason Brolund, Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION to Consider and Resolve:

THAT Council allocate \$35,000 from the Fire Equipment Reserve to facilitate the replacement of damaged equipment and firefighting foam consumed in August 2023 during the McDougall Creek Wildfire event.

STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS

Invest in Infrastructure – We will invest in building, improving, and maintaining infrastructure to meet the needs of, and to provide a high quality of life for, current and future generations.

Foster Safety and Well-Being – We will pursue through direct action, advocacy, and collaboration with local and regional service providers, investments in community health, needs-based housing, emergency preparedness, policing, and other services that foster safety and well-being in West Kelowna.

BACKGROUND

West Kelowna Fire Rescue (WKFR) fought the McDougall Creek wildfire from August 15 – August 31, 2023. Unprecedented fire conditions and firefighting activity levels were experienced during this event.

DISCUSSION

From time to time through the course of normal firefighting operations, hose and equipment is damaged or destroyed. Firefighting foam is consumed to reduce the use of water and make suppression efforts quicker and more efficient.

WKFR plans for the annual and ongoing replacement of a small amount of damaged hose, equipment, and consumables (such as firefighting foam) as a part of the annual budget process.

During the McDougall Creek fire, the amount of hose and equipment that was damaged was much larger than usually anticipated throughout the year. This was due to the extreme fire conditions combined with high levels of activity as well as strategies and tactics employed to protect lives and property in the face of this unprecedented event.

Attempts have been made to recover these costs through the BC Wildfire Service Interagency Agreement and the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness financial recovery process, however these costs have been deemed to be ineligible.

Mayor and Council will note however, that some extraordinary costs were deemed eligible and are in the process of being recovered (for example, fuel and wages).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Fire Hose (2 ½, 1 ¾ and forestry)	\$18,000
Foam	\$14,000
Nozzles and Appliances	\$3,000
Total	\$35,000

REVIEWED BY

Warren Everton, Director of Finance / CFO

Lisa Siavashi, Manager of Finance / Deputy CFO

Corinne Boback, Legislative Services Manager / Corporate Officer

APPROVED FOR THE AGENDA BY

Trevor Seibel, Deputy CAO

Powerpoint: Yes No