



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire Department

PAGE NUMBER: 2-27

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Poole

QUESTION:

I'd like to know what might shift in your service areas (staffing, contracting, programs) if there were roughly a 5% or 10% cut in the tax revenue available to your department, compared to 2019, for your service areas.

I'm asking this question of all departments during this pandemic period. Many of us in business are forced to tighten our belts. While there may be arguments at higher-levels of government for fiscal spending to stimulate the economy, at our municipal level, by reducing taxes we help reduce the burdens on our residents.

What operations could be reduced for 2021, perhaps deferred by a year or two?

Operations and capital projects are intertwined. A new capital project typically needs people to oversee it. Are there capital projects, which, if deferred, might free up some of your staff time to deliver current services you would prioritize?

ANSWER:

Administration takes guidance for the service review and budget from the Governance and Finance Committee during the review of the Financial Plan. The service review is this Committee's opportunity to review the services offered by the Town and either enhance or reduce service levels based on based on the needs of their constituents. Administration has adjusted budgets and work plans for the targets set out in the financial plan in July 2020 and reconfirmed in December 2020.

Operating impacts resulting from capital projects can be found at the end of each of the previously approved capital project descriptions included throughout the service review. During the service review presentations administration will highlight individual operating impacts as we go through each capital project.



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire Department

PAGE NUMBER: 1-27

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Poole

QUESTION:

Capital Project PS 24-09

Command Vehicle (\$91k)

Please discuss the tradeoffs of deferring this by a year.

ANSWER:

The fire department command vehicles replacement schedule is based on a 10 year and no more than 100,000 kms. This replacement schedule was modified a few years ago when command vehicle were replaced every 7 years. Command vehicles respond to 500 to 600 emergencies annually and must be reliable and safe. These vehicle are driven at high speeds, are cold started/operated, idle for long periods of time and driven aggressively at times. To push replacement beyond the current schedule would increase the risk to our personnel and reliability of the vehicle.



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire - Emergency Preparedness

PAGE NUMBER: Pg. 22

ELECTED OFFICIAL: DiManno

QUESTION:

This is a what-if scenario from Hell. How would we handle a spike in COVID cases and a nearby wildfire at the same time this summer? What would something like that look like?

ANSWER:

This scenario “from hell” was thought about last summer. Discussions were had with Parks Canada fire and vegetation group. The tactical response to a wildfire would include COVID protocols and I am confident we could be effective. The larger issue is around possible evacuation. We would look to our regional partners to help facilitate hotel occupancy where congregate lodging would normally be used and incorporate COVID protocols for Emergency Social Services. We would also look at fire behavior and other information and potentially house evacuees in hotels within the community with additional fire protection assigned to protect the structures and those housed within them.



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire Department

PAGE NUMBER: 9

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Christensen

QUESTION:

\$30,000 for a washer and dryer requires some further supporting discussion to receive my approval.

ANSWER:

The Bunker gear washer and drying cabinet replacement capital project is a commercial grade extractor and specifically designed and built drying cabinet to properly clean and dry bunker gear to protect and maximize the life of the bunker gear. Proper cleaning of bunker gear is a NFPA requirement and protects our firefighters by cleaning hydrocarbons, biohazards and other toxic chemicals that soil the gear when fighting fires, at motor vehicle incidents and at medical responses.



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire Department – Previously Approved NSLR

PAGE NUMBER: 24

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Christensen

QUESTION:

Can the position of emergency manager be shared with more partners? I cannot support a new position at this time even though it was previously approved the position should not be considered in the current financial climate.

ANSWER:

This position / program shared between Banff and Canmore is funded by a grant from the Province that both Councils passed resolutions to apply and engage in a regional emergency management program and coordinator. Banff's resolution COU 19-329 was passed by a unanimous vote. The program received \$170,000 from the Province and no significant municipal funding is required until 2023.



2021 Service Review Council Questions

SERVICE AREA: Fire Department Replacement Vehicles Question

PAGE NUMBER: 12

ELECTED OFFICIAL: Christensen

QUESTION:

Is it possible to gain savings by extending the usage of the current command vehicles?

ANSWER:

The fire department command vehicles replacement schedule is based on a 10 year and no more than 100,000 kms. This replacement schedule was modified a few years ago when command vehicle were replaced every 7 years. Command vehicle must be reliable and safe as these vehicle are used for emergency response and are driven at high speeds, are cold started/operated, idle for long periods of time and driven very aggressively at times. To push replacement beyond the current schedule would increase the risk to our personnel and reliability of the vehicle.