

To: Mayor and Members of Council

May 30, 2011

Re: White Butte Regional Fire Committee

### **Background**

As part of the White Butte Regional Planning Committee, a sub-committee was formed called the White Butte Regional Fire Committee. The mandate of this fire committee was to review the fire services provided throughout the region and recommend a fee schedule for the RM of Edenwold to pay to each of the towns that provide fire service to the RM.

### **Discussion**

The White Butte Regional Fire Committee has prepared a report along with recommendations to each of the member municipalities. The report is attached. The White Butte Fire Committee is asking each municipality to review and approve their recommendations.

### **Budget Implications**

No Budget implication for 2011, as this fee structure is proposed for 2012 – 2016.

### **Recommendation**

Administration recommends that Council approve the recommendations of the White Butte Regional Fire Commission.

Respectfully submitted,



Shauna Bzdel,  
Town Manager

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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The Fire Committee was asked by the White Butte Regional Planning Committee to review the fire service in the region and make recommendations regarding the establishment of a more formal regional structure and setting out the Regional Fire Service fee that the RM of Edenwold #158 would pay to the four municipalities providing fire protection service in the region. A subcommittee was struck to research and make a recommendation regarding the fees to the RM.

After reviewing the financial history of each department and investigating the relationships of several rural municipalities with their fire protection providers the subcommittee's recommendation that the following fee structure be put in place for the period January 2012 – December 2016. Current fees will remain for the balance of 2011. A motion at the meeting of May 10<sup>th</sup> was passed unanimously.

Commencing in 2012 the fee paid by the RM to each of the four municipal governments with fire service is recommended to be:

	<u>2012-2016</u>	
Balgonie	<b>\$27,000</b>	
Edenwold	<b>9,000</b>	
Pilot Butte	<b>32,000</b>	
White City	<b><u>52,000</u></b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$120,000</u></b>	(\$100,750 in 2010)

The subcommittee did consider an indexed structure but decided that setting a fair five year fee meant that all parties then had stable budget numbers for the period. The set fee allows each department to know in advance the funds it has available for operating rather than a fee for service structure which would most likely provide variable funding from year to year. A concern expressed at the committee's meeting was whether the rate structure could be reviewed during the period should there be a drastic change in the region warranting such a review. As well, the question of whether the number of homes in each municipality was factored in and the sub-committee had not used such information in its deliberations. In fact, fires in the RM are more likely to be on agricultural properties than residential or commercial.

Respectfully submitted by the White Butte Regional Fire Committee

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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The committee is also making a recommendation regarding establishing a Reserve Fund in each municipality and to the RM that it bill out a fire service charge.

### **Fire Service Reserve Fund**

As the region's fire service needs to replace or acquire new major equipment it is recommended that each municipality initiate a "Fire Service Reserve Fund" with an annual contribution commencing in 2012. Each municipality will hold these reserves until a major equipment purchase is initiated and funds are requested for that acquisition. Establishing a fire services reserve fund helps in managing the funds needed to acquire major equipment.

Balgonie	<b>\$10,000</b>
Edenwold	<b>3,000</b>
Pilot Butte	<b>10,000</b>
White City	<b>10,000</b>
RM of Edenwold	<b>20,000</b>

There was some discussion of whether the Reserve Fund should be in relationship to the RM's fire service fee. It was not the sub-committee's view that the RM would be responsible for half the cost of future apparatus and major equipment purchases.

### **Should the RM of Edenwold #158 invoice ratepayers for fire services provided?**

Although this was not one of the issues identified at White Butte Regional Planning Committee the subcommittee did spend time discussing the practices of other rural municipalities regarding fire service charges. The subcommittee suggests that the RM institute a bylaw enabling it to charge ratepayers for each fire fought in the RM as a means of recovering some or all of the costs of fire service. Examples of what these charges would typically be are included for your review. The RM of Edenwold is the only one we are aware of that does not charge its ratepayers for fire service and most property owners have insurance coverage which includes fire fighting charges. It is anticipated that the charges to ratepayers would not likely be sufficient to offset the total fees but that difference is really the standby charge to ensure that there is fire service response when needed.

The RM of Moose Jaw #161 bylaw states: "Whereas the fire fighting service is supplied ... by the City of Moose Jaw and the cost for this service is charged directly to the RM on an hourly basis which will subsequently be charged directly on the property of the persons who receive this service."

Each fire department would be required to provide to the RM administration a detailed fire response report, the template to be determined.

# White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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## Proposed Fire Callout Charges

Callout	\$750		
	15 minute		
Hourly Charge:	increments		
Apparatus	250		
Firefighter	100	5 at \$20/hr	

**Billing from RM to ratepayer who had the fire:**

**1 hall response** Grass fire response from 2 apparatus for 2 hours 20 minutes

	#	rate	hours	Charge
<i>Callout</i>	1	750	X	750
<i>Apparatus</i>	2	250	2.5	1,250
<i>Firefighter</i>	2	100	2.5	500
<b>INVOICE TOTAL</b>				<b><u>\$2,500</u></b>

**2 hall response** Grass fire response from 4 apparatus for 2 hours 50 minutes

	#	rate	hours	Charge
<i>Callout</i>	2	750	X	1,500
<i>Apparatus</i>	4	250	3.0	3,000
<i>Firefighter</i>	4	100	3.0	1,200
<b>INVOICE TOTAL</b>				<b><u>\$5,700</u></b>

**1 hall response** Structural fire response from 2 apparatus for 1 hour 40 minutes

	#	rate	hours	Charge
<i>Callout</i>	1	750	X	750
<i>Apparatus</i>	2	250	1.75	875
<i>Firefighter</i>	2	100	1.75	350
<b>INVOICE TOTAL</b>				<b><u>\$1,975</u></b>

**2 hall response** Structural fire response from 3 apparatus for 1 hours 45 minutes  
One unit sent back after first hour

	#	rate	hours	Charge
<i>Callout</i>	2	750	X	1,500
<i>Apparatus</i>	2	250	1.75	875
<i>Firefighter</i>	2	100	1.75	350
<i>Apparatus</i>	1	250	1	250
<i>Firefighter</i>	1	100	1	100
<b>INVOICE TOTAL</b>				<b><u>\$3,075</u></b>

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

### Balgonie Fire Department

Revenue	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>
Fire Calls and SGI	3110	36,444	19,759	6,724	14,906
R.M. of Edenwold Agreement					
Fee	20000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Donations	2150	3,450	2,391	12,475	6,875
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>25,260</b>	<b>59,894</b>	<b>42,149</b>	<b>39,199</b>	<b>41,781</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Renumeration	2500	2,500	2,500	3,000	16,185
Fire Fighters/FR Renumeration	2500	2,500	2,500	3,000	
EMS dispatch fee	1150		1,150	1,150	1,150
Fire Contracted Services	376	637	1,624	750	762
Travel and Meals (Training)	1551	4,392	2,604	3,853	4,845
Insurance	2442	2,432	2,479	2,536	2,779
Memberships/Subscriptions	120		120	120	122
Contracted Repairs					19,316
Other	1274	1,459	2,310	264	
Utility Heat			3,851	4,138	2,509
Utility Power	4674	4,643	1,766	1,658	1,818
Utility Telephone/Internet	4770	4,670	4,014	3,945	3,702
Office Supplies	644		781	814	1,451
Equipment Repairs/Tools	3086	647	668	2,445	1,134
Oil and Gas	560	7,289	1,180	283	654
Small Tools/Equipment	1882	491	3,001	7,162	26,683
Public Relations	2948	1,792	3,646	5,030	4,235
Grants and Contributions BPECS	1200	5,081	750		1,950
Maint. Building	0	1,200	66	379	1,434
Purchase of Assets - Building	460				
Purchase of Assets - Machine					
Purchase of Assets - Equipment	6888	12,878	11,260	8,304	13,307
Fire Other (Projects)	682	701	179		
Amortization	5000				14,600
Special Projects					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>44,707</b>	<b>53,312</b>	<b>46,449</b>	<b>48,831</b>	<b>104,036</b>

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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### Pilot Butte Fire Department

Revenue	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>
Fire Calls and SGI	10,627	5,161	2,184	9,442	9,837
R.M. of Edenwold Agreement					
Fee	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Trailer Fees					
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>35,627</u></b>	<b><u>30,161</u></b>	<b><u>27,184</u></b>	<b><u>34,442</u></b>	<b><u>34,837</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Renumeration	8,832	11,158	11,455	12,478	11,357
Fire Fighters/FR Renumeration					
EMS dispatch fee	1,866	1,866	1,866	1,866	1,865
Travel and Meals (Training)	1,435	1,158	2,480		842
Radio Lic.					335
Memberships/Subscriptions	515	525	570	490	551
Other	335	335	335	335	
Utility Heat					
Utility Power	4,279	3,895	4,025	4,696	4,617
Utility Telephone	2,012	2,608	2,077	2,188	2,228
Office Supplies					
Supplies & Materials	15,745	19,314	19,403	6,803	10,821
Oil and Gas	1,661	1,673	1,826	1,287	1,826
Repairs & Maint.	7,279	21,723	19,675	3,936	15,919
Public Relations					
Grants and Contributions BPECS	1,200	1,200	750		1,950
Maint. Building	3,158	333		393	244
Purchase of Assets - Building			4,870	5,530	
Purchase of Assets - Machine					
Purchase of Assets - Equipment	1,423	6,609	3,630		17,968
Fire Other (Projects)					
Amortization					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>49,740</u></b>	<b><u>72,397</u></b>	<b><u>72,962</u></b>	<b><u>40,002</u></b>	<b><u>70,523</u></b>
					35,686

# White Butte Regional Fire Committee

## White City Fire Department

Revenue	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>
Fire Calls	1,830	4,100	4,901	1,000	1,707
R.M. of Edenswold Agreement Fee	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	48,750
Donations					
GST allowance					
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>46,830</b>	<b>49,100</b>	<b>49,901</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>50,457</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
EMO					982
Fire Fighters/FR Renumeration					20,000
EMS dispatch fee	1,149	1,149	1,149	1,149	1,149
Fire Contracted Services					508
Travel and Meals (Training)	5,364	6,267	4,236	690	2,742
Insurance	1,961	3,635	4,654	3,679	9,647
Memberships/Subscriptions	350	300	135	445	120
Computer/software					5,940
Contracted Repairs	2,103	1,973		4,516	
Utility Heat	4,461	4,859	5,045	6,040	4,695
Utility Telephone	791	1,085	1,229	763	968
Utility Power					1,318
Unit 1 2 3 4	2,809	4,727	2,895	6,840	1,471
Oil and Gas	1,488	2,145	909	627	1,271
Small Tools/Equipment				2,248	2,603
Public Relations					172
Grants and Contributions BPECS	1,200	1,611	750	750	1,200
Maint. Building					927
Purchase of Assets – Software					
Purchase of Assets - Machine					
Purchase of Assets - Equipment	23,504	17,509	23,477	20,706	
Long Term Debt					8,149
FF Clothing	722				10,905
Interest					5,354
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>45,902</b>	<b>45,260</b>	<b>44,479</b>	<b>48,453</b>	<b>66,618</b>
					16,161

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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### Edenwold Fire Department

Revenue	<u>2006 Actual</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>	<u>2008 Actual</u>	<u>2009 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>
Fire Calls and SGI					
<b>R.M. of Edenwold Agreement Fee</b>	7000	7000	7000	7000	7000
Donations					
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>	<b><u>7,000</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Renumeration					
Fire Fighters/FR Renumeration					
EMS dispatch fee	630	630	630	630	630
Fire Contracted Services					
Travel and Meals (Training)			80		
Insurance	1118	1183	1183	1050	1030
Memberships/Subscriptions		260	300	285	300
Contracted Repairs					
Other					
Utility Heat	2165	2484	2913	3264	2180
Utility Power	608	735	1095	800	880
Utility Telephone	524	571	661	512	550
Office Supplies					
Equipment Repairs/Tools	410.85	108.35	560.73	688.13	130
Oil and Gas					
Small Tools/Equipment	254.68	222	148.11		300
Public Relations					
Grants and Contributions BPECS					
Maint. Building		626.85			
Purchase of Assets - Building					
Purchase of Assets - Machine					
Purchase of Assets - Equipment			4180.68		
Fire Other (Projects)	272.46	72.15		506.52	800
Repayment to Volunteers (acct pay/07)					
Special Projects	87.16	800			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>6,070</u></b>	<b><u>7,692</u></b>	<b><u>11,752</u></b>	<b><u>7,736</u></b>	<b><u>6,800</u></b>

## White Butte Regional Fire Committee

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### Balgonie Fire Department

	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM Fire</b>	<b>Town Fire</b>	<b>F.R.</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>2010</b>	96	2	1	57	19	9
<b>2009</b>	73	8	3	39	12	9
<b>2008</b>	86	8	6	37	21	11
<b>2007</b>	76	11	4	32	20	2
<b>2006</b>	67	4	12	24	16	3
	<b>398</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>34</b>

### Pilot Butte Fire Department

	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM Fire</b>	<b>Town Fire</b>	<b>F.R.</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>2010</b>	108	9	3	48	46	
<b>2009</b>	72	5	4	27	36	
<b>2008</b>	85	4	2	46	33	
<b>2007</b>	73	10	1	38	24	
<b>2006</b>	88	2	5	52	29	
	<b>426</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>0</b>

### White City Fire Department

	<b>Total</b>	<b>RM Fire</b>	<b>Town Fire</b>	<b>F.R.</b>	<b>MVC</b>	<b>Other</b>
<b>2010</b>	19	10	9			
<b>2009</b>	20	10	4			6
<b>2008</b>	24	18	6			
<b>2007</b>	18	14	0			4
<b>2006</b>	8	8	0			
	<b>89</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>