

Agenda Item: D.1

# Request for Decision

Title	2018-2021 Fire Service Agreement with Town of Legal
Proposed Motion	That Council authorize the Mayor, CAO and the County Fire Chief to sign and execute the 2018-2021 Fire Service Agreement with the Town of Legal.
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends Council accept this presentation as information and endorse the continuance of this vital relationship.
Previous Council Direction	April 14, 2015 – Motion 127/15: That County Council authorize the Mayor, CAO and the County Fire Chief to sign and execute the 2015-2017 Fire Services Agreement with the Town of Legal.
Report	<ul> <li>The current Fire Service Agreement in place between the County and the Town began April 1, 2015 and expires December 31, 2017.</li> <li>Over the years the Town of Legal and the Legal Fire Department have been a vital part of the Emergency Services provided to our County residents and that continues today.</li> <li>Negotiations for this new agreement took place over the last few weeks with all parties involved working together to ensure a new agreement was fair and equitable for both and maintained current service level expectations.</li> <li>This new agreement sees the establishment of the District of Legal Fire Department. The County assumes administrative and operational responsibility for the department operations. This agreement has been based on the current models in place with the Towns of Bon Accord and Redwater.</li> <li>Moving forward, this agreement maintains and allows for sustainable fire and rescue services to both the County and Town of Legal residents.</li> <li>This is a great example of collaboration that will benefit both the Town of Legal and Sturgeon County and potentially supporting the Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework (ICF) emerging under the updated Municipal Government Act. Where necessary, this agreement can be referenced or folded into an ICF in the future.</li> <li>The Town of Legal Mayor and Council endorsed this agreement on November 13, 2017.</li> </ul>

Date Written: November 10, 2017 Council Meeting Date: November 28, 2017

#### **External Communication**

 This is primarily an operational matter that may be communicated by public media, and individual Councillor mentions.

#### Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- Municipal Government Act RSA 2000, c.M-26
- Occupational Health and Safety Act (Code of Practice for Firefighters)

# Implication of Administrative Recommendation

## **Strategic Alignment:**

By approving this agreement, Council will be consistent with its commitment to Strong Local Governance along with Maintaining and Enhancing Strong Communities. The approval of this agreement allows Council to demonstrate to its residents a continued commitment to ensuring an efficient effective emergency service is available when called upon. It shows leadership and initiative in implementing a supportive approach which will streamline the District of Legal Fire Department's administration, safety and operations, thus being sustainable and better prepared overall.

### Organizational:

Should Council approve this agreement, it will benefit the County immediately in taking possession of several assets. In addition, such an agreement will ensure leadership and administrative stability of the District of Legal Fire Department which serves Sturgeon County residents a large percentage of the time. Current staffing levels within Protective Services will be able to administer such an agreement without causing any disruption to current service levels elsewhere in the County.

#### Financial:

The County will recognize some minor savings in current vehicle charges paid out when the Town-owned unit is used within the County. There will be added maintenance costs to up keep assets received in this agreement however it is not felt these costs will be substantial, basically balancing out one another. Future replacement of said assets will be reviewed on a case by case.

# Alternatives Considered

Council does not approve or defers proposed agreement.

# Implications of Alternatives

#### Strategic Alignment:

Could be seen as lack of Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership. Additionally, such a decision may be seen as lack of vision regarding "Planned and Positioning for Growth" opportunities. Without additional County involvement, the Legal Fire Department may not be sustainable thus affecting response.

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## Organizational

Current Fire Service Agreement remains in place. However, it expires on December 31, 2017. Without an agreement in place, fire and emergency services will undoubtedly be affected.

#### **Financial**:

None.

# **Follow up Action**

- 1. Administration will meet with CAO and Town of Legal FD members to discuss transitioning of responsibilities and duties.
- 2. Joint media release.

## Attachment(s)

- 1. Proposed Fire Service Agreement (2018-2021)
- 2. Current Fire Service Agreement (2015-2017)

## **Report Reviewed**

by:

Pat Mahoney, Fire Chief, Manager of Protective Services

Ian McKay, P.Eng., GM Municipal Services

Peter Tarnawsky, County Commissioner - CAO

# **Strategic Alignment Checklist**

**Vision:** Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

**Mission:** Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership			
We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)			
Consistent with neighborhood role (see MDP), master plans, policies			×
Considers fiscal stability and sustainability			⊠
Has a positive impact on regional and sub-regional cooperation			$\boxtimes$
Respect the Natural Environment			
We acknowledge the importance of a healthy environment and will minimize and monitor our impact on ecosystems (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)		×	
Compliance with Provincial and Federal regulations and/or legislation		×	
Ensure effective environmental risk management			
Community Identity & Spirit			
We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan, (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)			$\boxtimes$
Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County			$\boxtimes$
Enhances service provision through community partnerships			⊠
Supports Sturgeon County's cultural history			
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)			
<ul> <li>Does the proposal align with the Integrated Regional Growth Strategy (map/policies) pg. 26 MDP</li> </ul>			×
Considers cumulative costs and long-term funding implications			$\boxtimes$
Targets growth around current or planned infrastructure			⊠
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
We are committed to a safe, secure community, where our residents are respected and provided with access to opportunities. (Strategic Plan, pg. 27 MDP)			×
Positive impact on residents' quality of life			$\boxtimes$
Supports and promotes volunteer efforts			   
<ul> <li>Provides programs and services that are accessible to all residents</li> </ul>			
Operational Excellence			
We have the organizational capability to deliver consistent and defined levels of	_	_	<u> </u>
service to all stakeholders in a professional, efficient, and cost effective manner			
<ul> <li>Staff have the knowledge, skills and capability to perform their jobs</li> </ul>			
Streamlines operational processes and policies			
Promotes engagement and professional interaction with stakeholders			$\boxtimes$
Considers a cost-structure which allows Sturgeon County to remain competitive within a regional, national and global context			×

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