

Request for Decision

Title	Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) Accreditation - Update to Council
Proposed Motion	That Council accept the Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) update as information and endorse the continued use of Tanker Shuttle Service throughout the County.
Administrative Recommendation	That Council support the motion.
Previous Council Direction	None.
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2009, the County retained Sameng Inc. to complete a Fire Protection Study for the Sturgeon Valley area. The main scope of that project was to assess the level of fire protection and make recommendations that would see improvements. A report was compiled, presented and accepted by the previous Council as information. Since that time the Sturgeon Valley area has seen substantial growth and additional fire protection improvements have been implemented. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new Protective Services Building firehall has been constructed; ○ Additional apparatus has been purchased; ○ Full-time daytime staff have been hired; and ○ Upgrades to Allin Ridge Fill Station and reservoir(s) have been completed. • In late 2015, Protective Services, in conjunction with the Fire Underwriters Survey, conducted a review of the area’s (District of Namao) Dwelling Protection Grade (DPG). The DPG is a numerical system scaled from 1 to 5. One (1) is the highest possible grade and five (5) indicates little or no recognized public fire protection. This grading reflects the ability of a community to handle fires in small buildings. The last review of the area’s DPG was carried out in 1997. As a result of this review, the District of Namao’s area DPG improved from 4 to 3b. • In 2016, while construction was being undertaken on the Allin Ridge Fill Station and Reservoir(s), Protective Services initiated research and planning to ensure successful completion of a “Superior Tanker Shuttle Service” (STSS) Accreditation for the Sturgeon Valley, District of Namao Fire Service Area.

- To be recognized for Accredited Superior Tanker Shuttle Service, the system of delivery of water supplies must be well-designed and well-documented. The system of delivery must meet all of the requirements specified for Standard Tanker Shuttle Service and must exceed the requirements in several key areas:
 - The Fire Department must be able to prove through testing that the specified requirements of Superior Tanker Shuttle Service can be met;
 - For personal lines (residential properties/homes) insurance, the Fire Department must be able to deliver a flow rate of not less than 950 LPM (200 IGPM) within 5 minutes of arriving at the test site with the first major piece of apparatus (wheels stop);
 - The volume of water available for firefighting must be adequate to sustain the accredited flow rate for a duration of two (2) hours, in accordance with the Fire Underwriters Survey Water Supplies for Public Fire Protection.
- Upon evaluation, if successful, residential properties/home owners within 8 kilometres of the Protective Services Building, District of Namao Firehall, and within 5 kilometres of a recognized water source could apply for a reduction in their fire insurance costs.
- In 2017, Protective Services continued planning and practicing for the STSS. Utilities continued to conduct inventory and testing of the water system, including hydrants. On May 16, 2017, the STSS evaluation testing was conducted and observed by a representative of the Fire Underwriters Survey. Sturgeon County Protective Services staff, which included both full time and paid on-call (volunteer) firefighters, were successful in completing all requirements to obtain “Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation” for the Sturgeon Valley, District of Namao Fire Service Area.
- In fact, not only did personnel meet the requirements set out for testing, they surpassed them. The requirement for testing requires staff to maintain a minimum flow of 950 LPM (200 IGPM) per minute. Our team managed to flow and maintain 1440 LPM (315 IGPM) per minute. The Fire Underwriters Survey representative said that he had heard of this being accomplished in other parts of Canada but had never witnessed it himself first hand. He commended staff for a job well done.
- As a result of this accreditation, approximately 2,300 homes are situated within the parameters set out by Fire Underwriter within 8 km of the firehall and within 5 km of a water source. Many residents in the District of Namao Fire Service area were able to secure a reduction in fire insurance costs, qualifying for “**hydrant protected equivalency**”.
- One insurance provider reached out to our office and shared, *“Thank you so much for this info, it makes a huge difference in terms of insurance premiums. In this particular case, the file was under review as we previously noted the location as hydrant protected and when*

reviewed it was indicated as semi-protected. Without your letter from Fire Underwriters, the insured was facing a 50% increase in premiums. Looking at it from another direction, if we had previously noted him as semi-protected, applying hydrant protected rates would have qualified him for a 33% decrease in premium. With the value of homes in this particular area, you can understand that we're talking about hundreds of dollars in premiums."

- As a result of the success achieved with STSS Accreditation within the District of Namao Fire Service area, Protective Services endeavoured to achieve accreditation for other Fire Service Districts throughout the County.
- As part of the Protectives Service 2018 Department Business Plan, the goal was to achieve STSS Accreditation for the District of Calahoo Fire Service area. Arguably, due to logistics, location, distance, water sources etc., this district would be the most difficult to try and obtain STSS accreditation.
- Beginning in early April and working with Fire Underwriters staff from its Burnaby, BC office, Protective Services staff were able to complete all required documentation relating to apparatus, staffing, water sources, pre-planning, timings, capacity, etc.
- On October 3, 2018, after several training sessions and practice sessions onsite accreditation testing was conducted. The test site was in the vicinity of Highway 37 and Range Road 270, utilizing eight (8) County apparatus and sixteen (16) staff (both full time and paid on-call/volunteer), accreditation testing was carried out.
- The testing was successful. All required documentation was completed and submitted to the Fire Underwriters office for their review. Today Protective Services staff are tremendously pleased to announce and report to Council that we were successful in achieving Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation for the District of Calahoo Fire Service Area, potentially affecting 635 homes.
- Further, Protective Services staff are extremely pleased to report and update Council that through our collective efforts and diligence in submission of documentation, pre-planning, display of professional abilities and associated timings to the Fire Underwriters Survey office, that they have also granted Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation to all of the remaining Fire Districts and Fire Service Areas within Sturgeon County:
 - Bon Accord Fire Service Area;
 - Gibbons Fire Service Area;
 - Legal Fire Service Area;
 - Morinville Fire Service Area; and
 - Redwater Fire Service Area.

- What does this mean? All residential properties/home owners within the respective fire service areas, within 8 kilometres of a firehall, and within 5 kilometres of a recognized water source, potentially will realize a reduction in their fire insurance costs. Eligible homes in these respective areas would go from being considered unprotected or semi-protected to **“hydrant protected equivalency.”**

Potential Estimations:

- Bon Accord Fire Service Area – 525 Homes
 - Gibbons Fire Service Area – 668 Homes
 - Legal Fire Service Area – 217 Homes
 - Morinville Fire Service Area – 759 Homes
 - Redwater Fire Service Area – 166 Homes
- At the time of achieving STSS Accreditation for the District of Namao, Sturgeon County was one of only two municipalities in Alberta to achieve this accreditation. This remains the same today, with only one other municipality in the Province of Alberta accredited in this manner.
 - Achieving and maintaining STSS Accreditation will certainly affect many residents, along with promoting growth, resulting in potential savings for many households for many years to come.

External Communication

- Protective Services staff, working in collaboration with the Sturgeon County Communications Department, plans to undertake an extensive public relations campaign to spread the good news utilizing many various forums such as County Connections, FYI ads, road side sign, social media, community meetings, website, etc.
- “Recognition for Fire Insurance Grading” letters, downloadable for residents, will be placed on the County website.
- Maps of the areas where STSS Accreditation is applicable will be developed and placed onto the County’s website and made available to residents and local insurance providers.

Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:

- Sturgeon County Protective Services Standard Operating Guidelines.
- Fire Underwriters Survey STSS Accreditation requirements and associated practices.

Implication of Administrative Recommendation

Strategic Alignment:

- **Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities** – Receiving the STSS Accreditation builds on past, current and future efforts of the Utility Department and Protective Services to provide the best possible fire protection service levels to the community.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned Growth – Successful completion of the STSS will contribute and benefit many areas regarding future development and growth, MDPs, etc. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>Acceptance and recognition of this achievement and endorsement of the follow up actions will provide guidance to staff and benefit residents now and into the future. Having these areas now qualified as hydrant protected equivalency status and rated as protected will undoubtedly benefit many.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>Associated costs are will be captured mainly within current operating budgets. Achieving the accreditation is the first step, maintaining is the second, thus, there will be needs through regular planning of capital replacement of apparatus, equipment and staffing.</p>
<p>Alternatives Considered</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Implications of Alternatives</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Follow up Action</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communications: work to spread the word and reach residents to encourage them to contact their respective insurance providers. 2. Protective Services Staff: regular training evolutions to ensure skills are maintained so effective water shuttles can be employed.
<p>Attachment(s)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. STSS Areas Map 2. Letter of Accreditation to Community 3. Letter of Recognition 4. Presentation
<p>Report Reviewed by:</p>	 P. Mahoney, Fire Chief/Manager of Protective Services  Scott MacDougall, General Manager, Municipal Services  Reegan McCullough, 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
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan.</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Manages growth for current and future developments through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development</i> <i>targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas</i> </i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are provided with access to opportunities and quality of life. (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Supports the safety of people and property</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strong Local and Regional Governance			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Considers fiscal stability and sustainability</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<i>We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>