



AGENDA ITEM

Sponsorship of Resolution

AFRRCS (Alberta First Responders Radio Communications System)

Access for CPO's

October 10, 2019

BACKGROUND

Foothills County is bringing a resolution forward to the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Fall Conference and has requested Lacombe County to be the "second" for this resolution. The resolution is titled 'Community Peace Officer Access to RCMP Radio Channels'.

Since the implementation of AFRRCS and the RCMP's decision to encrypt their Talkgroups, Lacombe County CPO's have lost the ability to communicate directly with the RCMP and monitor their surroundings for potentially unsafe situations unfolding around them.

Lacombe County RCMP detachments have all migrated onto AFRRCS and CPO's are now facing a variety of unsafe situations. A letter by the Manager of CPO Services was sent to Foothills County, outlining examples of three situations our local CPO's have encountered as a result of this communication gap. The letter and proposed resolution are attached for Council's information.

ANALYSIS

Due to the loss of communication with the RCMP Lacombe County CPO's are also involved in potentially unsafe situations. As such, staff is recommending that the request to be the "second" for the proposed resolution be approved by Council.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That Lacombe County support and second the Foothills County resolution 'Community Peace Officer Access to RCMP Radio Channels'. (staff recommendation).
2. Take other action as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:
 - a. to provide good government,
 - b. to foster the well-being of the environment,

- c. to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of council, are necessary or desirable for all or a part of the municipality,
- d. to develop and maintain safe and viable communities, and
- e. to work collaboratively with neighbouring municipalities to plan, deliver and fund intermunicipal services.

2. Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County’s Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

OUR VISION – An attractive, balanced, and progressive community.

OUR MISSION – To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships.

OUR KEY PRINCIPLES – Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item, the following engagement will take place:

Inform: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

- That Lacombe County by resolution of Council support and second the Foothills County resolution ‘Community Peace Officer Access to RCMP Radio Channels’

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