

# **FIRE ASSOCIATION FUNDING POLICIES**

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Effective Date: July 2, 2002	Revised: January 1, 2023 Res CM-2022-09-58

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to direct the approach in which funding is provided by the County to Rural Fire Associations for their operating and capital programs.

**POLICY**

General

The general funding calculation approach for the Rural Fire Associations will utilize the assessed values of relevant property classes multiplied by a mill rate. The approach used in the annual funding calculations will be as follows:

1. Assessment values for the funding year will be based on the prior year assessment. For example, 2023 funding levels will use the 2022 property assessment values as the basis for calculation.
2. A mill rate represents an amount per \$1,000 of assessment value. For example, a mill rate of 1.00 applied on a \$1,000 assessed value equates to \$1 in funding. A fraction of a rate such as 0.12 mills would provide \$0.12 on that same \$1,000 assessment base.
3. The resulting calculation from #2 above will result in the total funding available, which will then be applied to each Rural Fire Association based on the percentage noted in each funding section below.

The funding criteria within this policy includes all Rural Fire Associations.

**Operating Funding**

For operating expenses, an annual funding value will be provided to each Rural Fire Association based on the following:

- Assessment classes of properties include residential, farmland, industrial, and commercial.
- 0.20 mill rate applied on the total of all assessment classes noted above.
- Each Rural Fire Association to receive a 12% share of the total funding available from the resulting assessment and mill rate calculation.

- Funding will be an annual allocation to each Rural Fire Association and conditional upon receipt of the previous year's financial statements from each fire association with amounts to be approved annually by Wheatland County Council. Each set of statements must fulfill the criteria stated in the checklist noted in Schedule A.

### **Small Capital Equipment Funding**

For small capital and equipment expenses, an annual funding value will be provided to each Rural Fire Association based on the following:

- Assessment classes of properties include all power and pipeline assessment (i.e., linear classes).
- 0.20 mill rate applied on the total of all assessment classes noted above.
- Each Rural Fire Association to receive a 10% share of the total funding available from the resulting assessment and mill rate calculation.
- Funding will be an annual allocation to each Rural Fire Association and conditional upon receipt of the previous year's financial statements from each fire association with amounts to be approved annually by Wheatland County Council. Each set of statements must fulfill the criteria stated in the checklist noted in Schedule A.

### **Large Capital Equipment Funding**

For large capital equipment an annual funding value will be provided to each Rural Fire Association based on the following:

- Assessment classes of properties include all classes.
- 0.10 mill rate applied on all assessment classes will fund large capital equipment for all Wheatland County Fire Services.
- Allocation/percentage of available annual funds for each Rural Fire Association to be recommended by the Fire Capital Committee and approved by Wheatland County Council.
- Large capital equipment costs are to be split between the Rural Fire Association and the County as a 40/60 proportional split, with the County responsible for 60% and the remaining 40% for the Rural Fire Association.

### **Building Funding**

For buildings such as fire halls, renovations, additions, sheds and cold storage, an annual funding value will be provided to each Rural Fire Association based on the following:

- Assessment classes of properties include all classes.
- 0.10 mill rate applied on all assessment classes will fund buildings for all of Wheatland County Fire Services.

- Allocation/percentage of available annual funds for each Rural Fire Association to be recommended by the Fire Capital Committee and approved by Wheatland County Council.
- Building project costs are to be split between the Rural Fire Association and the County as a 40/60 proportional split, with the County responsible for 60% and the remaining 40% for the Rural Fire Association.

### **Other Stipulations**

Any unused funds from the small capital, large capital and building will be set up in a Reserve account at year end and used for future purchases, as approved by Wheatland County Council.

Should any fire department/association dissolve, any assets that Wheatland County has contributed funds towards will revert and become the property of Wheatland County.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

It is the responsibility of the Fire Capital Committee to put forward recommendations for proposed large capital and building projects to the Wheatland County Council.

Wheatland County staff will periodically review the funding formulas and methodology to ensure this policy provides equity, logic and consistency for the Rural Fire Associations and Wheatland County.

### **DOCUMENT OWNER**

Emergency and Fire Services

SCHEDULE A – Fire Association Financial Statement Checklist

FINANCIAL STATEMENT CHECKLIST

- Financial Statements are dated “as at December 31, \_\_\_\_\_” YES  NO
- Financial Statements are approved by the Board YES  NO
- Financial Statements are signed and dated YES  NO
- Financial Statements show the current and previous year YES  NO
- Financial Statements show a Statement of Net Worth YES  NO
- Financial Statements include a Statement of Operations YES  NO
- Total Revenues are shown for current and previous year YES  NO
- Total Expenses are shown for current and previous year YES  NO
- Financial Statements include a Statement of Capital Assets YES  NO
- Statement of Capital Assets include additions for the year reported YES  NO
- Statement of Capital Assets include the Total Capital Assets YES  NO
- Statement of Cash Flow balances to the bank account balances (optional) YES  NO
- Financial Statements include a Statement of Cash Flow (optional) YES  NO
- All prior year values agree to prior year approved financial statements

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEATLAND COUNTY

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>FIRE ASSOCIATION FUNDING POLICY 12.1</b>	<b>Loans</b>  <span style="float: right;">Page 1/1</span>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	New Fire Halls and Fire Trucks
Historical - Effective Date: Dec. 1/09 CM – Res. 09-745 Revised: Feb. 5/13 CM – Res. 13-02-56 Jan. 0/13 – C of W	Nov. 1/16 CM – Res. 16-11-36 (Policy relocated from Section 8 to Section 12)

**LOANS**

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Council may consider loans required to purchase new fire halls and fire trucks for Wheatland County’s Fire Associations. An interest rate will be applied to this loan based on the current rate of interest from Wheatland County investments (GIC). Applications must be addressed to Wheatland County Council. All applications will be assessed on an individual basis and in consideration of Wheatland County budget and other financial factors. Maximum repayment shall not to exceed five (5) years.

All loans must comply with the provisions of the Municipal Government Act (Loans & Guarantees Section – 264 268).