



2025 Budget: LIVFD fire trucks and firehalls.

Based on the feedback I received at the Town Halls and elsewhere (with appreciation), I put forward ideas that were designed to try to balance the tax burden with LIVFD needs. The January Finance Committee deliberated on this and unanimously made the following recommendations to the Board:

THAT the Board direct staff to amend the Capital Asset Replacement Plan for Lasqueti Island to:

- *Reduce the Lasqueti Island Volunteer Fire Department apparatus fleet by one apparatus; and*
- *Budget to replace the 1983 Engine with a used vehicle at a cost of up to \$400,000 in the 2026 budget; and*
- *Direct staff to fund the apparatus purchase through an allocation of \$300,000 from the Community Works Fund and \$100,000 from the Lasqueti Volunteer Fire Protection Service Statutory Reserve; and*
- *Direct staff to apply any allocated funds remaining from the apparatus purchase toward future purchase of apparatus; and*
- *Direct staff to increase the contributions to the Lasqueti Fire Protection Service statutory reserve fund from \$14,025 to \$60,000 in the 2025 budget toward replacement and/or renovation of apparatus and fire halls; and*
- *Direct staff to apply any additional surplus from 2024 as 2025 revenue*

The intent of the above recommendations is to support LIVFD to move forward with the purchase of a used replacement fire engine in 2026, paid for by grant funding and LIVFD reserves (no increased taxation for this item), and to direct any remaining allocated funds to future apparatus replacement.

2025 Budget: General. The Finance Committee will review draft 3 of the 2025 budget in early Feb. Based on draft 2, it looks like overall, taxes will be about 9% higher than last year. About half is due to inflation (3-5%), with a real increase (net of inflation) of slightly over 4%.

About half of the real increase is driven by 2 factors: (i) General administration: a consultant will be hired to help with increased information requests; and (ii) Waste management: the Resource Recovery Centre is up and running, but the significant debt must be repaid.

The LIVFD budget is set to increase about 2.5% in real terms net of inflation (about 7.7% including inflation), largely for vehicle maintenance. However, prior year surplus is not yet known and may be significant, so the budget is still in flux.

Please feel free to contact me. I am honoured to be your regional representative.

Director Andrew Fall, qathet Regional District. Tel: 250-333-8595



From Tim Peterson: Greetings all. At our next meeting, February 10, we will hold a Community Information Meeting, followed by a Public Hearing on the Connected Coast fibre optic rezoning application. Please note that following the Public Hearing, the Local Trust Committee will be prohibited from hearing further from the public about this application. For those unable to attend in person or online, the notice in this paper lists the mail and email addresses for written correspondence. Note that the deadline for written feedback is 4:30 p.m., February 9. It is also worth noting that this application covers only the landing of the fibre optic cable and construction of the “vault” --next to the barge ramp in False Bay. All other considerations around “last mile” or distribution projects will be considered separately and only if this application is approved. To access the staff report and application, go to the Islands Trust website> Island Planning> Lasqueti> Current Applications. Alternately, I’m happy to email these documents to you on request. And, as always, feel free to contact your trustees with your questions, comments, or concerns.



We are delighted to report that LINC’s 2024 Year End Appeal was a big success. We had 66 donations totaling \$16,737 dollars, exceeding our \$12,000 goal by \$4,700! We gratefully acknowledge this huge outpouring of support.