

Topic: Enhanced Road Maintenance Services**Introduction:**

This report provides recommendations for Parkland County Council consideration on Enhanced Road Maintenance Services for 2018.

Facts (Background Information):

In 2017, Parkland County roads were in poor condition as a result of abnormal weather experienced in late 2016 and early 2017.

Parkland County, Public Works Department put forth a good effort with the available resources to maintain the County roads.

On November 08, 2018, during the 2018 Parkland County budget process, Council requested Administration to review and bring forward recommendation to address the poor road conditions of 2017.

Analysis:

The majority of 2017 public road concerns were associated with rough gravel and surfaced roads, large numbers of potholes, as well as large potholes.

Administration reviewed the Gravel Road Maintenance Program, the Hard Surfaced (Paved) Road Maintenance Program and the Vegetation Management Program to determine and put forward recommendation to address the poor road conditions.

Alternatives:

Parkland County Administration recommends the following activities and associated additional costs to address the 2017 poor road conditions.

1. Gravel Road Maintenance Program

Increase shoulder pulling activities by 285% at an additional one time annual cost of \$235,000 in 2018. This will reduce rutting and soft roads by significantly reducing the backlog of roads in need of shoulder pulling.

Increase shoulder pulling activities in 2019 by 140% over 2017 service level, at an additional annual cost of \$145,000 over 2017 cost. This annual cost will become part of the program base budget and will address

shoulder pulling on a go forward basis. The work will be performed by additional in-house staff and additional equipment.

Increase the Gravel Road Maintenance Program standards to reflect a 20% increased amount of gravel applied to repaired roads at an additional annual cost of \$370,100 in 2018. The cost for the increased standard will become part of the program base budget and reduce rutting and soft roads. The work will be performed by in-house staff and equipment.

2. Hard Surfaced (Paved) Road Maintenance Program

Increase the number of surface overlays at an additional annual cost of 456,000 in 2018. This will increase the timeliness to address large potholes, referred to as “blow-outs”, on Parkland County surfaced roads. The work will be performed by contracted services. Addressing blow outs will be further assessed later in 2018, and if deemed necessary, the cost will be reflected in the 2019 budget for Council consideration.

Increase pothole patching activities at an additional annual cost of \$129,000 in 2018. This annual cost will become part of the program base budget and will reduce the amount of potholes on Parkland County surfaced roads. The work will be performed by additional in-house staff and additional equipment.

3. Vegetation Management Program

Increase removal of brush and trees on Road Right of Way along roads challenged with moisture. The additional annual cost for this increased service is \$256,000 in 2018. This annual cost will become part of the program base budget and will reduce the amount of gravel roads exposed to rutting and soft areas. The work will be performed by in-house staff and specialized equipment to be acquired.

4. Public Messaging

Establish a communication process to inform the public of Road Maintenance activities. This process will provide the public a sense of surety that Parkland County is aware of conditions and effectively managing the activities to maintain roads at an acceptable service level.

Conclusion/Summary:

Administration supports the recommended enhancements to road maintenance services as identified in the Alternatives.

AUTHOR: Leo Girard

Department: Public Works

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