



Report to Governance & Priorities Committee

Meeting Date: February 14, 2012

Topic:

Pilot Project – Water Safety Initiatives.

Background:

Parkland County Enforcement Services, (PCES), provide a proactive approach to manage safety of watercraft users. This pilot project would see Enforcement Services obtain authority from Transport Canada to enforce the Small Vessel Regulations. PCES would patrol selected water bodies over the summer of 2012. The focus would be public education and awareness around safe boating. This would be achieved using a visible law enforcement presence on the water, contact with the boating public, educating, raising awareness and soft enforcement of the Federal Small Vessel Regulations plus enforcement of the Gaming & Liquor Act.

Our proposed initiative would follow the Leduc County Enforcement Services Water Safety Initiative. They focused on Wizard & Pigeon Lakes and feel during the summer of 2011 about 90% of safety issues were successfully addressed.

Properly trained and equipped, it is proposed to conduct water patrols 2 weekends per month June – September, 2012.

PCES will evaluate this pilot project and bring forth recommendations to Council in October, 2012.

Authority Process:

Parkland County applies to Manager of Compliance, Enforcement and Appeals, Regulatory Services and Quality Assurance, Marine Safety, Transport Canada to be designated as “Enforcement Officers” pursuant to /Section 45(d) of the Canada Shipping Act, Small Vessel Regulations. Transport Canada has informed Parkland County this process takes only a matter of weeks.

Capital Costs:

Boat – It is proposed to equip PCES with boat suitable for enforcement work, and the nature of the lakes identified for patrols in 2011, Jackfish Lake, Mink Lake, ?, and ? such as a 16’ aluminium boat, 90 hp jet drive, suitable for the proposed use.

- Boat Options:

1. Fire Services – Parkland County Fire Services will supply a boat to Enforcement Services at the rate of \$700 per day, plus expenses, (i.e. fuel for boats, and truck). Approx cost would be \$14,000 for two weekend per month from May to September.
2. Rental - \$4,000 per month X 5 months = \$20,000
3. Purchase – Leduc County paid \$32,000 for their boat

PPE:

Training:

- PCES has a number of officers whom possess the Pleasure Craft Operators Licenses
- County Fire Chief, Jim Phelan, would provide additional boating/water safety training.

Staffing Boat Patrols:

- Staff the boat patrols only with qualified staff, as per Federal Regulations and the County Safety Program
- **Option #1:**
 - Bring off-duty officers in on Overtime
 - Pros – no reduce service level in County
 - Cons – increase costs
 - Officer currently work a four week rotation, and work 2 weekend and are off 2 weekends
 - It is reasonable to expect off-duty officers to want to spend quality time with their families, therefore it may not be possible to staff patrols using this method
- **Option #2:**
 - Utilize officers already schedule to work
 - Pros – Would be able to schedule patrols through the summer, making allowance for summer vacations
 - Cons – Officers (always 2) working on the water, will not be able to respond to other calls.

Impact of Service Delivery:

- This pilot project will most likely negatively impact service delivery in the County
- Officers patrolling on the water will not be able to respond to requests for service, such as Off-Highway Vehicle, traffic, fires, etc.
- All efforts will be made to have at least one general duty/traffic enforcement officer patrols the roads

IMPLICATION OF DECISION**Financial Implications:**

This is a brief explanation of financial implications.

Cost	Source of Funds
Manhours	Project Research = 8
	Patrols = 480
	Training =

Policy and/or Legislative Implications:

Parkland County Enforcement Services applies to Transport Canada for authority to enforcement the Small Vessel Regulation.

Alternative Options:

Parkland County not do the Water Safety Initiative Pilot Project

Administrative Recommendation:

Administration recommendation to Council is, approve the Water Safety Initiative Pilot Project for 2012. Evaluate the project and

Attachment:

Appendix "A" – Copy of Leduc County Enforcement Services authority from Transport Canada

Appendix "B" – Copy of Leduc County Enforcement Services Hazard Assessment (Safety Program)

Appendix "C" – Copy of Leduc County Water Safety Initiatives Report

Appendix "D" – Copy of Leduc County Enforcement Services Policy.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION TO GPC
--

Report Author:

Date:

Department Manager:

Date:

General Manager:

Date:

Chief Administrative Officer:

Date:
