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# FIRE RESPONSE COST RECOVERY POLICY

SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

# AGENDA

- Purpose
- Policy Statement & Scope
- Standards
- Responsibilities
- Appeals
- Sample Invoice Costs
- Cost Recovery Plan
- Questions



# PURPOSE

- The purpose of this policy is to establish cost recovery standards and guidance for Parkland County Fire Services emergency responses.



# POLICY STATEMENT AND SCOPE

- Parkland County may charge costs incurred by Fire Services for any emergency response actions taken. Fire Bylaw 2023-17
- Enables efficient resource allocation and continued high-quality emergency services.
- Applicable to individuals who caused the incident, landowners, or persons in possession of the land where the incident occurred.
- Covers motor vehicle collisions, vehicle fires, structure fires, outdoor fires, public assists, and false alarms.



# STANDARDS

Cost Recovery Amounts: Invoiced using rates in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw. (pg 1 of handout)

- **Motor Vehicle Collisions & Vehicle Fires:** Invoiced to Alberta Transportation, registered owner(s), or insurance companies.
- **Structure Fires:** Base rate invoiced to insurance companies, possible charges for uninsured properties with financial means.
- **Outdoor Fires:** Full recovery for negligent/deliberate actions.
- **Public Assist:** Invoiced where individuals have not taken reasonable safety precautions.
- **False Alarms:** Invoiced as per Fees and Charges Bylaw.



# RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Fire Chief of Designate:** Implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the policy.
- **Legal and Legislative Services:** Coordination of appeals to Parkland County Council.



# APPEALS

Appeals to Fire Chief or designate within 30 days.

Final decisions by Fire Chief for invoices  $\leq$  \$1000.

Appeals to Parkland County Council for invoices  $>$  \$1000.



# SAMPLE INVOICE COSTS

- **Outside Fire (Wildfire):** \$7,730.00 - Owner burning during fire ban and winds caused wildfire.
- **Structure Fire:** \$11,580.00 - Single home contained to one structure.
- **Motor Vehicle Collision (County Roadway):** \$1,440.00
- **Public Assist (Cat in Tree):** \$720.00
- **Public Assist (Rope Rescue):** \$1,200.00

# COST RECOVERY PLAN

- Managed through a third party contracted collections agency retained through our procurement services process.
- Public communications of policy through our County communications streams.
- Public Education strategies throughout the year with social media and public open house attendance.

# REQUEST FOR DECISION

- That Fire Response Cost Recovery Policy FD08 be approved, as presented.

# QUESTIONS