

Topic: Nuisance Fire Alarm Prevention**Introduction**

Council has requested administration to conduct a presentation on the impact that nuisance fire alarm incidents has on Parkland County. Nuisance false alarms make up on average 26% of the total emergencies that Fire Services deals with each year. These incidents are increasing annually which is creating further demand on emergency resources to respond for false alarms.

Through this presentation, administration will propose an option to introduce a bylaw that will:

- Provide a means for recovering the financial impact incurred upon Parkland County by nuisance fire alarms,
- Penalize those businesses who are not adhering to their responsibilities to the Safety Code Act and the Alberta Fire Code,
- Does not penalize alarm holders when an alarm activates during a true emergency,
- Provide motivation to ensure that alarm systems are inspected, maintained and function correctly.
- Reduce the number of false alarms that occur annually.
- Maintains a balanced approach in application of fees for nuisance false alarms.

Administration is seeking direction on the conceptual bylaw and/or other alternatives that the committee wishes to pursue.

Facts (Background Information)

During a Fire Service Master Plan presentation on August 23rd 2016 to Council it was identified that Fire Services should be developing a bylaw to address nuisance false alarms.

Analysis

In fire administrations review of comparative municipality's practices to reduce or prevent nuisance fire alarm incidents, it was discovered that nearly all those investigated had provisions within a municipal bylaw to recover the costs incurred from these types of incidents.

The 2016 Fire Service Master Plan recommends in goal:

"H1.1 - Within three years, bring forward recommendation to council to implement fees for all services provided by the fire service"

Fire Service False Alarm Data

- In 2016, as of September 20th, Fire Services has responded to 146 false alarm calls. This amounts to 21.6% of the Fire Services total number incidents this year.
- In 2015, Fire Services responded to 177 false alarm calls. This amounted to 20.5% of the Fire Services total number incidents.

- In 2014, Fire Services responded to 155 false alarm calls. This amounted to 20.3% of the Fire Services total number incidents.

Public Engagement Strategy

If the Committee is prepared to proceed with this conceptual bylaw, Administration will develop a communications strategy to inform building owners and public to the new bylaw for nuisance alarms.

Alternatives

1. Provide Administration strategic direction on the conceptual bylaw.
2. Provide Administration with further direction to further research alternative strategies to reduce nuisance alarms.

Conclusion/Summary

Administration supports that the Committee of the Whole receive the Nuisance Fire Alarm Prevention presentation for information, as presented.

Administration supports that the Committee of the Whole direct administration to present to Council a Nuisance Fire Alarm Prevention Bylaw to be implemented on January 1, 2017.

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