

Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw

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User Fees and Charges Overview

- Alberta legislation currently provides municipalities with two primary sources of ongoing revenue:
 - Taxes
 - User Fees, Rates and Charges
- User fees, rates and charges are paid by consumers who use and benefit from certain municipal goods and services. Examples include public transit, recreation facilities, permits, utility services, etc.

Municipal Services vs. Subsidy Level

No Direct Benefit to an Individual, Group of Individuals or Businesses



Direct Benefit to an Individual, Group of Individuals or Businesses

General Revenue

- Fire
- Police
- Roads
- Parks

User Fees and General Revenue

- Transit
- Recreation Facilities

User Fees

- Utilities
- Licenses

Current User Fees, Rates and Charges

- With the exception of a utility fee increase in 2017, user fees, rates and charges have not been adjusted for over 10 years.
- Utilities are a direct benefit to the consumer and the rates charged should be in-line with recovering operating costs. Annual rate increases will advance towards cost recovery.
- For all other fees a comprehensive review, which included benchmarking our current fees against other municipalities was undertaken.
- A singular bylaw was created to house all user fee, rates and charges, which presently reside within multiple bylaws.

User Fees, Rates and Charges Examples

- The average increase to user fees, rates and charges is approximately 17%.
- There are several reasons for increases:
 - Increased costs to provide services
 - Fees for services such as Utilities = Cost Recovery
 - Alignment of charges with the benefit of the program/service

User Fees, Rates and Charges Examples

The following user fees, rates and charges examples are above the 17% average increase:

- Cost to provide the service is substantially higher than fee
 - Animal Control – Replacement of Lost Tags – \$5 - \$10 (100%)
 - Animal Control – Impound fees – \$10 - \$25 (150%)
 - Transit Services – Urban Fares – Approximately 20%
- Cost recovery examples
 - Solid Waste – Landfill/Collection Rates – Average increase of 8%
 - Water and Wastewater Rates – Average increase of 10%

User Fees, Rates and Charges Examples

- Other Miscellaneous User Fees, Rates and Charges addressed:
 - Assessment and Taxation – Temporary Project Accommodation (less than 365 days) – \$0.95 /bed/day to \$1.10 /bed/day (16%)
 - Planning and Development – Work Camp Permit – \$250 + \$1.25 / bed to \$2,000 + \$1.50 / bed (varies depending on # of beds)

Rate implementation

- Staggered implementation timeline:
 - January 1, 2020
 - Majority of user fees and charges set to increase
 - Spring / Summer Recreational Programs
 - July 1, 2020
 - Fall / Winter Recreational Programs
- As part of the annual budget process, a review of utility cost recovery will be completed, as well as a review of other user fees and charges

Questions?