



Subject: Review of all Programs and Services

APPROVALS:

Marcel Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendation:

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) be directed to undertake a review of all municipal programs and services and report back to Council by May 24, 2016 with a recommendation as to what programs and services should be modified, reduced, temporarily or indefinitely suspended, or cancelled.

Summary:

Due to the magnitude and impact of the recent wildfire disaster experienced within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, and in order to appropriately position the municipality in fulfilling its mandate as a public service provider on a go-forward basis, it is imperative that the Municipality conduct a comprehensive review of all municipal programs and services that had been delivered prior to the event.

Background:

The wildfire event that began on Sunday, May 1, 2016 and erupted on May 3, 2016 is simply unprecedented. In that regard, it will have far reaching effects and impacts on municipal operations which are undetermined at this time and will in turn impact on the municipality's ability or need to perform or deliver various programs and services to our citizens. It is therefore imperative that the Municipality undertake a review and assessment of all municipal programs and services with the objective of determining and ultimately recommending to Council what current programs and services should be modified, reduced, temporarily or indefinitely suspended, or simply cancelled.

It is anticipated that as the municipality and its citizens adjust to the new state of affairs, there may be a need to introduce or implement new or different programs and services in order to meet and address the needs of the residents.

Further, in light of the potential financial implications of this event and the long-term economic impact and sustainability of the municipality, it is prudent to critically analyze and assess its mandate which is reflected in the many programs and services delivered to citizens.

This undertaking will provide an opportunity to assess, evaluate and ultimately determine a path forward in terms of program and service delivery, which is at the core of the municipality's existence.

In preparation for this review, Directors for the various Municipal Departments have had an initial meeting to discuss this undertaking.

Upon conclusion of the review, Administration will undertake to present a report to Council by May 24, 2016 with recommendations on what programs and services should be modified, reduced, temporarily or indefinitely suspended, or cancelled.

Budget/Financial Implications:

The financial impact arising out of the recommendations that may be forthcoming is undetermined at this time.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The recent wildfire disaster and its devastating effects on our residents and communities is a key trigger that has initiated the need for a comprehensive review of municipal programs and services that will ensure that they appropriately reflect the state of affairs for the immediate, short term and foreseeable future.

We must also be mindful that as we move forward and the situation develops and unfolds, there may be a need to introduce new or different programs and services, or there may be a need to augment those that exist. As such, this is also an exercise in ensuring that fiscal responsibility is exercised as the Municipality moves forward with its operations.

It is necessary to do this review so that Council has the necessary information to make informed decisions as we move forward and recover, resume operations and rebuild the community in a fiscally responsible manner.

Strategic Plan Linkages:

Review of all municipal programs and services is aligned and crucial to the success of all seven (7) Municipal Strategic Pillars:

- Pillar 1 – Building Responsible Government
- Pillar 2 – Building Balanced Regional Services
- Pillar 3 – Building a Vibrant Economy Together
- Pillar 4 – Building an Effective Land Strategy
- Pillar 5 – Building a Reliable Transportation System
- Pillar 6 – Building a Sustainable Region
- Pillar 7 – Building for a Healthy and Active Lifestyle