

**Subject: Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy
OPE-050 Amendment****APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the amended Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Council Policy OPE-050 coming into effect on March 1, 2021 as outlined in Attachment 1 be approved.

THAT no further budget be allocated at this time and, should there be a requirement for further funding, a request be brought forward to Council once the current budget funds have been exhausted.

Summary:

On December 15, 2020, Council approved the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-050 (Policy) via the following motions:

THAT Attachment 2, Proposed Backwater Prevention Program, be amended by adding the following as section 3.6.1.2.:

If the property is within the Flood Hazard Area as designated in the Flood Hazard Map of the Province of Alberta, the Municipality will provide a Grant of \$3,000 or the cost to complete the eligible work, whichever is less; and

THAT the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program - Policy OPE-50, as outlined in Attachment 2, as amended, be approved, to come into effect March 1, 2021; and

THAT \$1,000,000 be allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to fund the Backwater Prevention Program.

The Flood Hazard Maps provided by the Province are still in draft format and may not be available prior to the program's commencement date of March 1, 2021. Also, these only take into consideration the ground elevation, as opposed to the underground infrastructure which may be affected by a flooding event. As a result, the Municipality

has created Flood Hazard “Maps” to identify “Grant” funding eligibility.

The “Maps”, located in the Appendices of the Policy, focus on Flood Hazard areas making each area easily distinguishable, if it is Zone 1 (\$1,500) or Zone 2 (\$3,000), based on underground elevation. All areas within the Region not identified on the “Maps” are considered to fall under Zone 1.

Details of the application process (sub-section 3.5. Application) were also added to the Council Policy.

Background:

The Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program “Grant” provides up to \$1,500 subsidy to eligible property owners to install a “Backwater Valve” on their “Sanitary Sewer Service”. If the “Property” is within the Flood Hazard areas identified in Zone 2 on the “Maps”, the Municipality will provide a “Grant” of up to \$3,000 provided criteria outlined in the Policy is met. Priority will be given to properties located within Zone 2 for applications received in 2021.

When developing the Policy, Administration undertook jurisdictional scans of over twenty (20) communities across Canada to review comparable programs for their educational components, additional flood prevention and risk reduction measures, relevancy of design, and subsidy amounts. With this in mind, the scope for the program has been revised from the Urban Service Area, Fort McKay, and Fort Chipewyan systems to include the Region. The rationale for the extended coverage area is that many rural service areas do not have piped sanitary sewer systems (an eligibility requirement); however, should this service be introduced in the future, new connections will require backwater prevention devices.

Alternatives:

Council may wait until the Provincial Flood Hazard Maps become available (unidentified timeline) and postpone the program’s start date of March 1, 2021.

Limit the extent of the program offering to the Urban Service Area and the communities of Fort McKay and Fort Chipewyan to allow sufficient time to assess the uptake in the program prior to introducing it throughout the Region.

Budget/Financial Implications:

A total of \$1,000,000 has been allocated from the Emerging Issues Reserve to fund the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program, as approved by Council at the December 15, 2020, meeting. In order to prevent excessive carry forward, Administration recommends that no further budget be allocated at this time and, should there be a requirement for further funding, that a request be brought forward to Council once the current budget funds have been exhausted. The budget for the program in 2022 will be confirmed based upon the participation and disbursements to “Recipients” reported in 2021.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

- 1. Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-050**
- 2. Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program Policy OPE-50_Red-Line**