

Subject: Bylaw No. 20/026 - Amendment to the Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079**APPROVALS:****Jamie Doyle**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Bylaw No. 20/026, being an amendment to the Roads and Transportation Bylaw, be read a first time.

Summary:

On March 10, 2020 Council passed the following resolution:

"THAT Administration be directed to investigate and benchmark the current parking standards of other municipalities in Alberta and bring forward a report to Council identifying the appropriate value of parking penalties, including early payment discount options for parking infractions issued in contravention of the Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079."

Background:

Parking regulations are in place to ensure public safety at intersections, crosswalks and on sidewalks. The Roads and Transportation Bylaw No. 02/079 addresses a variety of objectives such as public safety and supporting municipal services. The parking fines established in the bylaw were based on their effectiveness for gaining compliance with parking standards.

Section 13 (1) of the *Traffic Safety Act* authorizes municipalities to enact bylaws governing the parking of vehicles on public roadways. Additionally, the Use of Highway and Rules of the Road Regulation 304/2002, regulates parking rules that applies to all roads in the Province.

Parking fines imposed by the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) are standardized at \$120.00, with one exception for parking in a disabled stall which is a set fine of \$500.00. Fine values within bylaws from eight regions were compared with the RMWB parking infraction penalty. In addition to fine amounts, the review also illustrated that four of the eight municipalities provide the option of an early fine payment reduction

(Attachment 2).

Year over year, the number of parking tickets issued has been decreasing. This could be contributed to several factors including population changes, compliance with parking and our ongoing education and public information program. A balanced combination of enforcement and appropriate fine levels are required to manage parking complaints and public safety issues.

RMWB Parking Ticket Totals						
Year	Winter Zones	Maintenance	Outside Agency		Bylaw Services	
	<i>Violation</i>	<i>Warning</i>	<i>Violation</i>	<i>Warning</i>	<i>Violation</i>	<i>Warning</i>
2020	896	110	888	309	1211	799
2019	1233	280	2117	728	923	837
2018	2276	550	3139	1055	950	1090
2017	2587	834	4329	1203	2029	1514

Rationale for Recommendation:

While parking fines are not meant to be punitive, they must be established at a level that is suitable to deter motorists from contravening parking standards. RMWB fines were established based on encouraging compliance with parking regulations. Currently the RMWB offers a \$5.00 reduction if the fine is paid within seven days of the municipal tag being issued. In the recently approved Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, there is a fine reduction of 25% if the municipal tag is paid within seven days

To be consistent throughout the Municipality, and to encourage early payment, it is recommended that the Roads and Transportation Bylaw fines be reduced by 25% if the municipal tag is paid within seven days. This would be a \$30.00 reduction on most of the parking fines and a \$125.00 reduction for parking in a disabled stall.

The current \$5.00 discount does not provide an incentive to our citizens for prompt and early payment. A 25% discount provides a substantial incentive to encourage citizens to pay fines within seven days. It also provides consistency in the fine reduction that is seen in other RMWB Bylaws.

It is therefore recommended that Council approve Bylaw No. 20/026.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

2. Parking Fine Data Comparison

1. Bylaw No. 20/026 - Amendment to the Roads & Transportation Bylaw