

Bylaw 2025-04 New Bylaw Introducing Fees for Volunteer Firefighting Services

In response to the costs associated with volunteer firefighting services, a new bylaw will be implemented to introduce fees for call-out services. This report outlines the implications of the bylaw, the importance of volunteer fire coverage, and recommendations for homeowners regarding their insurance policies.

The bylaw aims to address the financial burden on local municipalities caused by volunteer firefighting efforts. By instituting fees for each call-out, the bylaw seeks to ensure that funds are available to sustain and enhance firefighting capabilities within the community.

## Key Points of the Bylaw:

- Fee Structure: The cost of Fire Protection and Emergency Services shall be charged directly to the Person(s) who receive the Fire Protection and Emergency Services in accordance with the rates contained within the Bylaw, which may be revised from time to time.
- Implementation Timeline: The bylaw will be implemented starting <u>July 1, 2025</u>, providing residents with time to adjust to the new regulations.
- Public Awareness Campaign: An outreach initiative will be launched to inform the community about the new fees and their necessity.

## Importance of Volunteer Fire Coverage

With the introduction of these fees, it becomes increasingly important for homeowners to consider the coverage they have regarding volunteer firefighting services. Many insurance policies may not automatically include this coverage, which could lead to unexpected costs for homeowners in the event of a fire.

## **Key Considerations:**

- Financial Protection: Having adequate volunteer fire coverage on your home insurance policy can alleviate the financial impact of fees associated with emergency callouts.
- Policy Review: Homeowners should review their policies to ensure that they are adequately covered for volunteer firefighting services.

## **Recommendations for Homeowners**

- 1. Check Your Insurance Policy: Homeowners should contact their insurance broker to verify if they have volunteer fire coverage included in their home insurance policy.
- 2. Consider Adding Coverage: If this coverage is not currently included, homeowners should consider adding it to protect against potential costs arising from the new bylaw.

The introduction of this bylaw highlights the importance of being proactive about insurance coverage. By ensuring that your home is adequately protected for volunteer fire fighting coverage, residents can avoid unexpected expenses and contribute to the sustainability of volunteer firefighting efforts in the community.