



Master Rates Amending Bylaw C-8531-2024

Electoral Division: All

File: 1007-500

Date:	April 23, 2024		
Presenter:	Mason Austen, Acting Manager		
Department:	Utility Services		
Approved by:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Director / Director	and/or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Administrative Officer

REPORT SUMMARY

Municipal fees and charges are a common aspect of living in urban and rural areas. The fees are collected by local governments to cover the cost of the services provided, such as waste collection, water supply, and maintenance of public spaces. Fees can vary depending on where constituents live and the type of services that are required. The *Municipal Government Act* authorizes Council to establish bylaws regarding services provided by Rocky View County (County), which includes the fees in the Master Rates Bylaw.

At the April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Council Meeting, Council requested an amendment to the Utility Rates in the Master Rates Bylaw:

*MOVED by Deputy Reeve Kochan that the operating and capital budget adjustment presented in Attachment B be amended as follows:*

- 2) *That a utility rate increase for water and wastewater services of 3% be applied in the 2024 budget.*

The approval of the proposed bylaw will amend the 2024 *Master Rates Bylaw C-8515-2024* and would be effective May 1, 2024.

ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Bylaw C-8531-2024 be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8531-2024 be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8531-2024 be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw C-8531-2024 be given third and final reading.

BACKGROUND

The *Master Rates Bylaw* consolidates the established list of fees assigned to certain County services and is reviewed annually as part of the County’s budgeting process.

Utility Rate increases were not included in the 2024 Operating budget which was approved by Council on November 29, 2023. Administration proposed a 5% increase to the Master Rates Bylaw C-8515-2024 on March 13<sup>th</sup> which was not approved.



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### ANALYSIS

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Administration is proposing that Master Rates Bylaw C-8531-2024 (proposed bylaw) be approved. The approval of the proposed bylaw will repeal the 2024 *Master Rates Bylaw*. Should Council decide to approve the proposed bylaw, the proposed bylaw would come into effect on May 1, 2024.

Proposed changes to the fees include a 3% increase in the Water and Wastewater rates per Council's direction. This would result in approximately \$200,000 increase in revenue and a 2% increase in overall full cost recovery.

Alternatively, a 5% and 8% increase to the water and wastewater rates has been listed below for Council's information.

- 5% would result in approximately \$350,000 increase in revenue and a 3% increase in overall full cost recovery.
- 8% would result in approximately \$590,000 increase in revenue and a 5 % increase in overall full cost recovery.

These changes are to the current *Master Rates Bylaw* structure and are system specific. The adjustments consider operating and maintenance contracts, alongside debt servicing obligations.

### COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

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The proposed bylaw will be published on the County's website to ensure it is accessible to the public, along with additional customer communication and notification.

### IMPLICATIONS

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#### Financial

The proposed fee changes would result in approximately \$200,000 increase in water and wastewater revenues.

### STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

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The proposed bylaw supports financial prosperity in ensuring that the County remains financially sustainable for future generations.

### ALTERNATE DIRECTION

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No alternative options have been identified for Council's consideration.

### ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment A: Master Rates Amending Bylaw C-8531-2024