



FIRE SERVICES & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

TO: Council
DATE: March 9, 2021
FILE: 05220009
SUBJECT: Cost Recovery for Hazardous Material Response Cancellation Request

DIVISION: 5
APPLICATION: N/A

POLICY DIRECTION:

Cost-recovery fees are governed by the Fire Services Bylaw C-7886-2019 and Master Rates Bylaw C-7992-2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The landowner of Roll # 05220009 rented their property, and the renters set up an illegal drug lab. When the RCMP executed search warrants, Rocky View County Fire Services incurred \$25,082.50 in costs for assisting with hazardous materials cleanup at the site.

As per the Master Rates Bylaw, the landowner was billed for these costs. The landowner is requesting that Council waive the cost-recovery fees.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends the request be denied in accordance with Option #1.

BACKGROUND:

On December 15, 2020, Rocky View County Fire Services received a request from RCMP to attend and assist with the mitigation of hazardous materials being removed from a drug lab, located at Roll# 05220009. In response to this request, the County provided equipment and four firefighters for a total of four days. While on scene, fire crews were assigned to work with hazardous material contractors also brought in by the RCMP. The work was necessary to protect the health and safety of police and peace officers, Health Canada officials, and the broader community.

The County incurred costs of \$25,082.50. The expenses were relating to an illegal activity, and the County billed the landowner in accordance with the Master Rates Bylaw.

On January 11, 2021, Administration received a request from the owner of the property, requesting that the cost recovery fees be waived.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

Waiving fees shifts costs to County taxpayers, and an interest/penalty-free payment plan impacts the County's revenue (interest and the time value of money).

Fire Services includes an estimate of this form of revenue in its annual operating budget. Should the fees be waived or reduced, the department's budget may show a corresponding deficit.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

This item is not related to any Council strategic objective.

Administration Resources

Randy Smith, Fire Services



OPTIONS:

Option #1: THAT the request to waive cost-recovery fees in the amount of \$25,082.50 be denied.

Option #2: THAT alternative direction be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Concurrence,

“Grant Kaiser”

“Al Hoggan”

Executive Director
Community & Business Connections

Chief Administrative Officer

GK/RS/lh

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT ‘A’: Email request from Roll# 05220009 dated January 11, 2021