

Priorities Committee Meeting_Apr16_2019**REPORT FOR INFORMATION**

Insurance Company Billing**Report Purpose**

To provide Priorities Committee with information on the County's ability to charge involved parties' insurance for the cost of responding to emergencies on both local and provincial roads and highways, as well as fire response.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships

Goal 6 - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

Emergency Services currently invoices for motor vehicle collisions (MVC), fire, railway and natural gas events based on provincial policy and municipal bylaws.

Invoicing for MVC incidents on provincial roadways is determined by the Alberta Transportation Policy #TCE-DC-501 (v-3) and associated guidelines. Current practice is to recover costs in accordance with this provincial policy.

MVC incidents on municipal roadways are invoiced to private auto insurance companies of involved vehicles. Most insurance coverage includes the response of emergency equipment and personnel as part of the incident costs within their client policies. Current practice is to recover response and third party costs. Costs invoiced are based on the Strathcona County Fees and Charges Bylaw.

Fire response is governed under Emergency Services Bylaw 68-2000, section 11 wherein, *"...Emergency Services, may, in respect of any costs incurred by Emergency Services in taking such action, charge any costs so incurred by Emergency Services to the person who caused the fire or the owner or occupant of the land in respect of which the action was taken."* Such costs are set within the Strathcona County Fees and Charges Bylaw. Current practice is to recover third party costs, such as when an excavator is required to remove debris or create a safe environment and for towing companies to remove or move items that may interfere with extinguishing a fire.

Current practice for fire response to railway-ignited wildfires is to invoice as authorized under the *Forest and Prairie Protection Act*, section 11, which states that, *"Each railway operator shall, on demand, reimburse the authority in subsection (3)(b) for all costs incurred in fighting the fire."*

Council and Committee History

December 6, 2018 Council requested information be provided by the end of the third quarter of 2019 on the County's ability to charge involved parties' insurance for the cost of responding to emergencies on both local and provincial road and highways, as well as fire response.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: N/A

Master Plan/Framework: N/A