



Request for Decision

Title	Fire Services Cost Recovery
Proposed Motion	<p>1. That Council endorse the recovery of Fire Department expense charges relating to insured perils.</p> <p>2. That Council direct Administration to engage a third-party company to recover discretionary Fire Department expense charges from the respective insurance company, not individual policyholders.</p>
Administrative Recommendation	Administration recommends that Council endorse the recovery of Fire department expense charges relating to insured perils and authorize Administration to engage with third-party vendors.
Previous Council Direction	<p>June 25, 2019 – Committee of the Whole Council was presented information surrounding Sturgeon County’s current Bylaw and the current fire recovery model.</p> <p>February 12, 2019 - Motion 040/19: That Council direct Administration to amend applicable bylaws for Council deliberation allowing for the recovery of fire service expenditures in Sturgeon County.</p>
Report	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On October 23, 2018, Council received a presentation from a company called Fire Marque. This presentation provided an overview of the services offered by Fire Marque in relation to invoicing, billing of residents and businesses who suffer a loss as a result of a fire.At the February 12, 2019, Regular Council Meeting, Council directed Administration to amend applicable bylaws for Council deliberation allowing for the recovery of fire service expenditures in Sturgeon County.Current County bylaws were reviewed. It was Administration’s position that the current Fire Services Bylaw, Bylaw 1354/15, Section 10, supported by the County Fees and Charges Bylaws 1427/18 and 1435/19, already adequately provided the ability to invoice and recover costs for fire service expenditures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to the Committee of the Whole presentation on June 25, 2019, Administration conducted further research surrounding additional fire service recovery options, with the following findings. • The insured perils list is extensive and can cover incident types beyond residential fire, including tornadoes, plane crash, boat fires, explosions and other insured perils. In addition, non-residential (industrial, commercial and institutional) property policies also have potential fire department expense recovery mechanisms. • Third-party recovery services only action files that are forwarded by the respective municipality's fire division. This enables the municipality to maintain complete discretionary control as to which files are actioned. • One of the general principles of third-party recovery services is that, "They want to add to a Municipalities Revenue Stream, not impair it." Items that are currently invoiced will continue with no change to current procedures. • Administration believes that Sturgeon County's Fees and Charges Bylaw allows for a third-party cost recovery mechanism. However, if Council approves the additional recovery of fire service fees related to insurance perils and the bylaw is insufficient, Administration will bring back any required amendments for Council's consideration. • Administration's additional research confirmed that any additional fee recovery would be recovered directly from insurance companies, not the policyholders. <p><u>External Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the fire cost recovery motion is endorsed by Council, Administration will follow our current procurement practice in selecting a qualified vendor to pursue insured peril recovery under the County's discretion. <p><u>Relevant Policy/Legislation/Practices:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Municipal Government Act</i> • Sturgeon County Fire Service Bylaw 1354/15 • Fees and Charges Schedule Bylaws 1427/18 and 1435/19
Implication of Administrative Recommendation	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong Local Governance and Regional Leadership – Endorsement of the recovery of fire-related expenses from insured perils provides the County an opportunity to maximize billing opportunities on behalf of the fire department by invoicing insurance companies for the costs of fire department attendance with respect to insured perils.

	<p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <p>There will be little impact to the organization as a third party is recommended to be engaged to handle all the billing requirements.</p> <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <p>There will be no negative financial impact to the County as current third-party vendors typically collect a percentage of a successful recovery. It is not anticipated that there will be any retainer or additional fees associated with engaging a third-party vendor.</p>
Alternatives Considered	Council could decide not to proceed with additional recovery of fire-related expenses and continue with the current status quo procedure.
Implications of Alternatives	<p><u>Strategic Alignment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Organizational:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p><u>Financial:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
Follow up Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the motion is supported, Administration, following the County's existing procurement practices, will engage a third-party vendor to begin additional insurance peril recovery. 2. If determined through the recovery process that amendments to the existing Fire Service Bylaw are required, Administration will bring the amendments back for Council's consideration.
Attachment(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None.
Report Reviewed by:	<p>  Scott MacDougall, General Manager, Infrastructure & Community Services </p> <p>  Reegan McCullough, County Commissioner - CAO </p>

Strategic Alignment Checklist

Vision: Sturgeon County: a diverse, active community that pioneers opportunities and promotes initiative while embracing rural lifestyles.

Mission: Provide quality, cost effective services and infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of the Sturgeon County community, while improving competitiveness and sustainability.

Focus Areas	Not consistent	N/A	Consistent
Planned Growth and Prosperity			
<i>We encourage varied and integrated enterprises that enhance our strong economic base, while balancing the needs of the community and natural environment. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 36)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports a strong thriving business environment to strengthen our economic foundation 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for responsible growth through the MDP and regional growth plan. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages growth for current and future developments through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> transparent bylaws, policies and processes to enable responsible land development targeting growth around existing and identified future growth areas 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintain and Enhance Strong Communities			
<i>We are committed to a safe and viable community, where our residents are provided with access to opportunities and quality of life. (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to programs and services that have a positive impact on residents' quality of life 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides access to safe and reliable infrastructure assets 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports the safety of people and property 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Strong Local and Regional Governance			
<i>We promote consistent and accountable leadership through collaborative and transparent processes (Strategic Plan and pg. 27 MDP)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides effective leadership and management consistent with Strategic Plan, MDP, master plans, bylaws, policies, community engagement 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers fiscal stability and sustainability 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fosters collaborative intergovernmental partnerships 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Identity & Spirit			
<i>We will build upon our strengths, where together we will create an inclusive, caring community (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes and/or enhances residents' identification with Sturgeon County 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support and/or collaborate with voluntary organizations in the region 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Stewardship			
<i>We foster a healthy environment and minimize our impact on ecosystems. (Strategic Plan and MDP pg. 27)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans and partnerships that minimize environmental impact on natural areas 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides awareness of environmental issues impacting the County 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>