



CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES

2022 User Fees Fire Services Report

Report Number: JCC-2021-15
To: Joint Council Committee
Author: Central York Fire Services – Rocco Volpe, Deputy Chief
Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Recommendations

1. That Fire Services Report 2022 User Fees – Schedule G Fire Services be received; and,
2. That the Joint Council Committee (JCC) approve this report and authorize staff to implement the updates in the Fire Services User Fees Schedule G, as amended; and,
3. That the JCC approve staff to invoice at the second occurrence for a property owner who fails to comply with By-law 2009-64 A Bylaw to Regulate Outdoor Burning; and,
4. That the JCC approve the implementation of a Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarm cost recovery program, in conjunction with the Stay Fire Smart Campaign.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide JCC with the proposed 2022 Fees and Charges for Services or Activities Provided by Central York Fire Services (Schedule G) User Fees – see Appendix A.

In particular, the two new cost recovery programs that have been added to the User Fees, smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, and elevator rescues.

Background

At the October 25, 2021 JCC meeting, CYFS presented Fire Services Report 2021 – 13 Cost Recovery Program (Final Project Update). JCC recommended that the report be brought forward to both municipal councils (Aurora and Newmarket). One of the recommendations within the report was to add the smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and

elevator rescues to the cost recovery program. The two programs have been added to the CYFS (Schedule G) User fees – see Appendix A.

On November 23, 2021, CYFS presented Aurora Council with Fire Services Report 2021-13. The report was approved by Council.

As well, the report was approved by Newmarket Council on December 13, 2021.

Newmarket council established the 2022 Budget target increase for fees and charges at 1.5%. The increase represents the annual increase in the Toronto Consumer Price Index (CPI) at the beginning of the budget process (Q1-2021).

Currently, CYFS invoices for an unauthorized outdoor burn, when the resident/property owner is in contravention of the Outdoor Burning By-law (2009-64). CYFS applies a “three-strike rule” within a calendar year.

The first visit requires the Captain of the fire truck to educate and inform the resident/property owner that they are in contravention of the Outdoor Burning By-law and ask them to extinguish the fire.

The second visit to a property still requires the Captain to educate and inform the tenant/property owner that they are in contravention of the bylaw and ask them to extinguish the fire. In addition, Fire Administration sends the property owner a letter advising that CYFS has attended their property on two occasions and that the third and sub-sequential visits that are in contravention of the by-law will result in an invoice.

CYFS would like to recommend to JCC a “two-strike rule” within a calendar year.

The first visit where the tenant/property owner is in contravention of the Outdoor Burning Bylaw will be the educational and warning component. The second and sub-sequential visits which are determined to be in contravention of the bylaw would result in the enforcement component (invoice).

Financial Impact

The table below is an analysis of incidents that CYFS attended with respect to Outdoor Burning. The following two years were recorded during the pilot phase of the Cost Recovery Program.

Year	Number of Incidents	Two Strike Rule	Three Strike Rule
2020	145	2 (\$1,020)	0
2021	90	1 (\$510)	0

Increase to Ministry of Transportation Rates (MTO)

A letter dated December 14, 2021, from the Ministry of Transportation Ontario (MTO), Robert Hazar, Manager, Municipal and Client Services Office, Transportation User Services Branch, announced that the new provincial MTO rate effective November 1, 2021, will be \$509.89. The MTO rate is followed for cost recovering at incidents on the Highway 404 corridor, which CYFS now covers as part of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Protection Agreement. CYFS practice is to use the current MTO rate for each fire apparatus cost recovery in a number of other scenarios. See Appendix B.

All other increases to services delivered by CYFS in 2022 are proposed at 1.5%.

Conclusion

In an effort to maintain fire resources and promote community fire safety, CYFS is recommending to JCC, to support moving from a three-strike to a two-strike rule regarding unauthorized outdoor burns that are in contravention of the Outdoor Burning By-law.

In addition, CYFS will be implementing a smoke/carbon monoxide alarm program. This is a non-profit program that will recover the cost of the alarms. Furthermore, it will ensure that homeowners are in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code (Section 213 and 216) Installation of Smoke Alarms and CO Alarms. This program will work in conjunction with the Stay Fire Smart Campaign.

On an annual basis, Newmarket Treasurer has the Delegated Authority- Report 2021-67, to approve Newmarket increases to fees and charges in the tax-supported budget up to the lessor of the rate of inflation or 2.5%. As such, only the increases to the MTO rates will require Newmarket Council approval. In addition, the Town of Aurora By-law indicates that any fees and charges associated with CYFS are managed and approved through the Town of Newmarket.

Consultation

The CYFS Senior Management Team consulted with Newmarket Financial Services.

Impact On The Master Fire Plan

This report has no impact on the Master Fire Plan.

Attachments

Appendix A – Schedule G 2022 Fire Services User Fees

Appendix B – Ministry of Transportation (MTO) Letter

Contact

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