



Fire Response Cost Recovery

PREPARED BY:	Fire Services	COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:	September 10, 2024
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Council approval date or later date as directed by Council		
REFERENCES:	Forest and Prairie Protection Act	PREVIOUS REVISION DATE:	N/A
	Parkland County Fire Services Bylaw 2023-17		
	Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw 2024-09		
FUNCTION:	Fire Services	LS REVIEW DATE:	April 8, 2024

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish cost recovery standards and guidance for Parkland County Fire Services emergency responses.

POLICY STATEMENT

Where Fire Services has taken any action whatsoever for an emergency response, Parkland County may charge any costs incurred by Fire Services.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable to the person(s) who caused the incident; the owner(s) of the land or the person(s) in possession of the land where the incident occurred. Fire Services shall adhere to this policy when seeking cost recovery for emergency response.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Fire Chief or designate is responsible for implementing, monitoring and evaluating this policy. Legal and Legislative Services is responsible for the coordination of appeals to Parkland County Council.

STANDARDS

1. Cost recovery amounts will be invoiced using rates as set out in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw unless otherwise specified. Fire response invoicing, outside the scope of current agreements, is outlined as follows:
 - a. Motor Vehicle Collisions and Vehicle Fires:
 - i. Alberta Transportation shall be invoiced for emergency responses on any Provincial Highway, in accordance with Alberta Transportation guidelines.

- ii. Registered owner(s), or insurance companies shall be invoiced for Fire Services responses on County roadways and private property.
 - b. Structure Fires:
 - i. Insurance companies shall be invoiced a base rate of \$3000 for structure fire responses exceeding one hour. Additional charges may apply for incidents requiring significant or specialized resources.
 - ii. Invoicing for fire response will generally not be pursued for uninsured properties. However, should it be determined that the property owner possesses sufficient financial means to cover the incurred costs, invoicing may still occur.
 - c. Outdoor Fires
 - i. Response for negligent or deliberate actions will be fully recovered, using rates as set out in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw. This includes fires that spread out of control due to contravention of permit conditions.
 - ii. Cost recovery will include personnel costs, additional equipment costs, contractors or any other costs related to fire response that have been incurred.
 - d. Public Assist
 - i. Emergency responses to public assists will be invoiced using rates as set out in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw where individuals have not taken reasonable safety precautions and cause an emergency response to provide assistance to the public. Responses include, but are not limited to, Non-Emergent Boat Recovery and Dog Off-Leash River Bank Rescue.
 - e. False Alarms
 - i. Residential and commercial false alarms will be invoiced as set out in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw
- 2. Appeals
 - a. Appeals may be made to the Fire Chief or designate, in writing within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Decisions of the Fire Chief or designate are final for invoices \$1000 and under. Decisions for invoices over \$1000 may be appealed to Parkland County Council in writing, through Legislative Services.