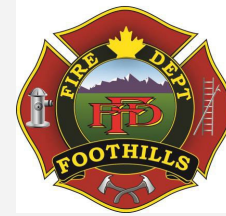


Public Hearing  
BILLING CAP REPORT  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT(S) TO FOOTHILLS COUNTY FEE BYLAW  
SCHEDULE I

Foothills Fire Department



Author: Rick Saulnier - Fire Chief

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### Introduction

Foothills County Council has directed administration to investigate options for full cost recovery of insured fire related expenses as part of the County's billing cap policy. The purpose of this directive is to ensure equitable cost recovery for services rendered to our residents.

Foothills County's Fee Bylaw establishes the fees charged for goods and services provided by the County, including fees for services provided by the Foothills Fire Department. These fees are outlined in Schedule "I" of the current Fee Bylaw 58/2022, and include special considerations whereby charges for firefighting services to fires occurring on residential or agriculturally zoned land within the County, that are not intentionally set by the occupant or caused by an act of nature or vandalism, will be invoiced as actual costs **to a maximum of \$1,500.**

### Fire Board Recommendation to Council

Upon review of the billing cap it was determined that in most cases the costs incurred by Foothills County far exceed \$1,500 per incident. As such, the department was absorbing those costs at the expense of our rate payers. Cost recovery, which involves charging people who bear the costs directly, may be considered preferable to tax increases.

It was also determined that most homeowner insurance policies have provisions that would reimburse the homeowner for costs associated with a response to structure fires, hazmat releases, and motor vehicle accidents. ***Foothills County recommends that ratepayers have in-depth discussions with their insurance agents regarding coverage for insurable losses and any other pertinent considerations within their individual insurance policies.***

The Foothills County Fire Board reviewed the following options:

1. Leave the current cap of \$1,500.00 in place;
2. Increase the current cap from \$1,500 to \$10,000;
3. Eliminate the cap and invoice landowners based on the actual expenses incurred.

Subsequently the Fire Board passed a motion to increase the billing cap monetary amount at the March 28, 2023 Fire Board Meeting.

### Council Resolution of May 10, 2023

**Resolution 328** - That Council authorize administration to prepare a public hearing for Council and the public to consider amendments in the Fee Bylaw to propose an increase of the billing cap for costs associated with Foothills Fire Services to a higher monetary amount of \$10,000.00.