

Subject: Proposed Increase to Set Fines for Parking and Fire Route By-law Housekeeping Amendment

Department: Corporate Services

Division: Clerks

Report #: CPS-2023-059

Meeting Date: 2023-09-11

Recommendations

That report CPS-2023-059, Proposed Increase to Set Fines for Parking and Fire Route By-law Housekeeping Amendment, be received;

And that Council approve the recommended increases to set fines for parking in relation to the Traffic By-law 2005-078 and the Fire Route By-law 2019-011, as amended;

And that the current set fines for parking remain in effect until the proposed set fines have been approved by the Ontario Court of Justice;

And that Council repeal Schedule M of Traffic By-law Number 2005-078, effective once set fine approval has been received;

And that Council amend Fire Route By-law 2019-011 to remove the requirement that authorized signage for a designated fire route is to display the by-law number.

Background and Analysis

The Provincial Offences Act contains provisions that provide a municipality with the ability to set fines for parking infractions. Parking Infraction Notices (tickets) serve as a deterrent to motorists to prevent illegal parking, which causes public safety concerns and impedes traffic flow.

Set fines for parking within the Town have remained unchanged since 2008. Fine amounts should be reviewed regularly in order to determine cost effectiveness, municipal best practices and to ensure that fine levels are fair and consistent in comparison with other local municipalities.

Parking fine amounts are currently set at \$25, except for parking in a fire route set at \$100, and parking in an accessible space set at \$300.

A review of the set fines for parking offences of surrounding municipalities was conducted. Attachment #1 – Municipal Comparator Chart provides a listing of the Town's current short form wording and set fine amounts for its parking offences in comparison to the surrounding municipalities, which indicated that:

- the Town's set fine amounts tend to be lower, on average, by \$10, compared to similar offences in the other municipalities;
- the higher level set fine amounts the Town has had approved for parking in a fire route and parking in an accessible space are also, on average, lower than the fine amounts that have been set by the comparators;
- the fine amount for parking within 1.5 m of a fire hydrant is \$50 lower than the comparator average.

To ensure that penalties for illegal parking continue to serve as a deterrent to motorists, staff are recommending that Council consider increasing the Town's set fine amounts for parking offences as follows:

Parking Infraction Notice	Current Set Fine	Proposed Set Fine
All parking offences (i.e. overnight, on boulevard, on sidewalk, in prohibited area)	\$ 25	\$ 35
Park in a fire route	\$100	\$125
Park within 1.5 m of a fire hydrant	\$ 25	\$ 75
Park in accessible parking space	\$300	\$325

The increased penalties may further deter illegal parking, however, an integrated approach of public awareness campaigns and enforcement protocols will continue to be utilized to maintain compliance.

Fire Route By-law Housekeeping Amendment

During the review of set fine parking amounts, staff noted that the Fire Route By-law 2019-011 contains a requirement that authorized signage for a designated fire route must display the by-law number.

The requirement for authorized signage in a designated fire route to display the by-law number could result in tickets issued for this parking offence being quashed in court, if inadvertently, the signage does not include the by-law number or displays the incorrect by-law number.

As a result, upon the advice of the Town's prosecutor, staff are recommending that the Fire Route By-law be amended to remove this requirement.

Next Steps

Following Council approval, the proposed increases to set fine amounts for parking offences must be submitted to the Ministry of the Attorney General for approval by the Ontario Court of Justice. The proposed set fines for parking offences would come into effect after approval is received.

Strategic Alignment

Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal: Future-Readiness

Objective: Due Diligence

Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan

Theme: Not applicable

Strategy: Not applicable

Notice Provisions

Not applicable

Financial Impact

Implementing increases in set fine amounts may result in additional revenue of up to \$42,605, if ticket issuance remains consistent with the levels from the past four years and the behaviour of motorists remains unchanged.

Tickets issued from 2020 to 2023:

Parking Infraction Notice Issued	2020	2021	2022	2023 (July 26)
Accessible Parking Space	34	122	288	134
Fire Route	89	127	228	57
Within 1.5 m of a Fire Hydrant	9	48	43	20
All Other Parking Offences	2,104	4,576	4,326	2,746

Estimated revenue based on average tickets issued in previous four years:

Parking Infraction Notice Issued	2020-2023 4-year average of tickets issued	Additional revenue resulting from increase
Accessible Parking Space	144	\$3,600
Fire Route	125	\$3,125
Within 1.5 m of a Fire Hydrant	30	\$1,500
All Other Parking Offences	3,438	\$34,380

The Town incurs costs for the delivery of a parking enforcement program which includes:

- Staff for parking ticket administration and payment processing
- Staff for enforcement
- Parking software
- Ticket printing
- Vehicle ownership fees

Respectfully submitted

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Attachment(s): 1. Municipal Comparator Chart – Parking Fines