



COUNCIL POLICY C-466

Fire Response Cost Recovery

PREPARED BY:	Fire Services	COUNCIL APPROVAL DATE:	October 13, 2026
EFFECTIVE DATE:	Council approval date or later date as directed by Council		
REFERENCES:	Forest and Prairie Protection Act Parkland County Fire Services Bylaw 2023-17 Parkland County Fees and Charges Alberta Transportation Guidelines	PREVIOUS REVISION DATE:	
FUNCTION:	Fire Services	LLS REVIEW DATE:	June 11, 2026

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.

DEFINITIONS

Specialized Emergency Response: An incident requiring specialized personnel, equipment, expertise, or external resources beyond Parkland County Fire Services' standard emergency response capabilities. This includes, but is not limited to, technical rescue incidents (e.g., confined space, trench, high-angle, water or ice rescue), hazardous materials incidents, or other events requiring advanced operational resources, specialized training, contracted services, or extended operational support.

Non-Emergent Response: An incident requiring Parkland County Fire Services to provide assistance or recovery services outside of standard emergency response operations. This includes, but is not limited to, non-emergent boat recovery, stranded access assistance, property or equipment retrieval, or other discretionary or avoidable service requests.

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 their 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. All events will be reviewed prior to invoices being sent to ensure accuracy and alignment with applicable policies. Where applicable, cost recovery provisions under multiple sections of this policy may be applied to a single incident. Fire response invoicing, outside the scope of current agreements, is outlined as follows:
 - (1) Motor Vehicle Collision and Vehicle Fires:
 - a. Alberta Transportation shall be invoiced for emergency responses on any Provincial Highway, in accordance with Alberta Transportation guidelines.
 - b. Registered owner(s), or insurance companies shall be invoiced for emergency response on County roadways and private property for events exceeding 2 hours in accordance with Alberta Transportation guidelines.
 - (2) Residential Structure Fires:
 - a. Insurance companies shall be invoiced for structure fire responses exceeding two hours. Additional charges may apply for incidents requiring significant or specialized resources.
 - b. For residential properties without insurance coverage, invoicing for fire response will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - (3) Commercial Structure Fires:
 - a. Parkland County Fire Services will work with businesses and their insurance companies (when applicable) to recover costs for fire response exceeding two hours in accordance with Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw. Cost recovery may include additional charges for significant or specialized resources, as well as any additional equipment costs, contractors, or other costs incurred as necessary for the fire response.
 - b. For commercial properties without insurance coverage, invoicing for fire response will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(4) Specialized Emergency Response

- a. For emergency responses meeting the definition of a Specialized Emergency Response, Parkland County Fire Services may recover costs incurred where the incident extends beyond two (2) hours. Where specialized contractors, external agencies or service providers are required to support the response, associated costs may be recovered regardless of incident duration.
- b. Cost recovery rates will be established through the Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw. Where specialized services, resources, equipment, or operational requirements are not identified in the bylaw, Parkland County Fire Services may recover the actual costs incurred.

(5) Where third-party contractors, specialized agencies, or external service providers are engaged to support the response, associated costs may be recovered and included in the invoice to the responsible party, property owner, or other entity determined to have caused, contributed to, or otherwise be liable for the incident. Outdoor Fires:

- a. Parkland County Fire Services may pursue cost recovery for outdoor fire responses, regardless of incident duration, where negligence or a failure to take reasonable precautions contributed to the incident. This includes fires that spread out of control due to contravention of permit conditions.
- b. Cost recovery may include personnel, additional equipment, contractors and other expenses incurred in relation to the response, including external agencies or specialized resources where required.

(6) Non-Emergent Response:

- a. For responses meeting the definition of a Non-Emergent Response, Parkland County Fire Services may recover costs in accordance with the Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw.

(7) False Alarms:

- a. Residential and commercial false alarms will be invoiced as set out in Parkland County Fees and Charges Bylaw

2. Appeals

- (1) Appeals may be made to the Fire Chief or their designate, in writing within 30 days of receipt of invoice. Decisions of the Fire Chief or their designate, are final for invoices \$8000 and under. Decisions for invoices over \$8000 may be appealed to Parkland County Council in writing, through Legislative and Legal Services.

ENACTMENT

This Policy shall supersede and rescind Policy C-FD08 Fire Response Cost Recovery.