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Date: July 10, 2019
To: Mayor and Council
Author: Roberta Baines, Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services
RE: Proposed Fees By-law Amendment – Dog Pound Fees
Report No.: CS-2019-13

AIM

To provide Council with information relating to new dog pound fees within the Fees and Charges By-law.

BACKGROUND

During their January 29, 2019 meeting, the Kingsville Leamington Municipal Animal Control Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) considered a request from Essex County K9 Services (“K9”), animal control service provider for Kingsville and Leamington. K9 has a number of duties as outlined in its contract with Kingsville and Leamington, including operating the dog pound, responding to calls related to animal control, seizing dogs found running at large, and restoring possession of a dog to its owner following the payment of a reclaiming fee of \$50. K9 has requested that the Municipalities amend their respective Fees By-law to increase the reclaiming fee and add a kenneling fee.

The reclaiming fees are payable by an owner whose dog is found running at large and is impounded. K9 collects this fee on behalf of the Municipalities and remits the same each month. The Committee was informed that there are dog owners who utilize the dog pound as a kennel due to the flat \$50 reclaiming fee which is much less than what kennels charge. The Committee was further informed that the average duration of an impound is 4.5 days.

In order to deter such misuse of this service, K9 has requested that the reclaiming fee increase after the first impound of the same dog as follows:

First reclaiming fee:	\$50.00
Second reclaiming fee:	\$75.00
Third and subsequent reclaiming fee:	\$125.00

All such fees would be remitted to the respective municipality.

K9 further requested the addition of a kenneling fees of \$15 to be charged for each day that a dog is impounded. K9 has requested that this fee be retained by K9 to cover some of the food costs for the impounded dog

DISCUSSION

At the January 29, 2019 meeting, the Committee passed the following resolution:

That members of the Kingsville Leamington Animal Control Advisory Committee recommend that their respective Councils approve amendments to their fee schedules to include the following:

First impound fee:	\$50.00
Second impound fee:	\$75.00
Third and subsequent impounds:	\$125.00

The impound fees will continue to be remitted to each respective municipality.

Kenneling fee of \$15.00 per day. Fees collected to be retained by Essex County K9 for associated costs to kennel the dogs.

The proposed increase to the reclaiming fee is in line with area municipalities and some municipalities also charge the kenneling fees. The current contract with K9 sets out the services to be provided by K9 which includes the operation of the pound and the provision of food, water and shelter to impounded dogs. Pursuant to its contract, K9 agreed to provide all services for a set annual price of \$70,000, plus HST. The additional revenue source (kenneling fee) to K9 was not contemplated within K9's proposal submitted during the public procurement process. The contract expires on December 31, 2020.

At its June 25, 2019 Regular Council meeting, The Municipality of Leamington approved the increased impound fees but did not approve the kennelling fee. Since we share our animal control services with Leamington it would be prudent that the Town of Kingsville follow their lead.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Promote the betterment, self-image and attitude of the community.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is anticipated that the increase reclaiming fee will generate approximately \$600 additional revenue annually, but that such revenue will decrease each year as dog owners cease using the pound in place of a kennel.

CONSULTATIONS

Municipality of Leamington

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the new dog pound fees and move to advertise for a public meeting to change the fees at a future date when the fees by-law is amended.

Roberta Baines

Roberta Baines, B.A.
Deputy Clerk – Administrative Services

Jennifer Astrologo

Jennifer Astrologo, B.H.K. (Hons), LL.B.
Director of Corporate Services/Clerk

Peggy Van Mierlo-West

Peggy Van Mierlo-West, C.E.T.
Chief Administrative Officer