

# Enforcement Enhanced Authorities

---

Regular Council Meeting  
February 25, 2025

# Purpose

---

The purpose of this presentation is to seek Council approval of expanded Peace Officer authorities for Primary Highway Enforcement and Emergency Response.



# Background

---

- The Alberta Peace Officer program grants specific powers and authorities to Peace Officers on request.
- Prior to 2021, Peace Officers in the Province of Alberta were restricted to conducting enforcement on local roads and three-digit highways.
- In 2021, the Government of Alberta expanded potential authorities to all highways within their jurisdictions under certain conditions and by specific request of the municipality.
- Emergency Response authority grants the ability for Officers to respond to certain emergency situations with their lights and sirens activated.

# Current Peace Officer Authorities

---

- Enforce Traffic Safety Act on three-digit highways, county roads, and limited sections of one and two-digit highways within urban boundaries
- Enforce Municipal Bylaws
- Current Provincial Legislation Enforced:
  - Traffic Safety Act
  - Dangerous Dogs Act
  - Gaming, Liquor, and Cannabis Act
  - Petty Trespass Act
  - Trespass To Premises Act
  - Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (Part 9, Division 2)



# Limitations of Current Authorities

---

- Peace Officers are witnessing dangerous driving behaviors on one and two-digit highways and are unable to intervene including:
  - vehicles passing unsafely
  - travelling at excessive speeds
  - distracted driving behaviours while speeding
  - vehicles almost being involved in high-speed collisions due to reckless/aggressive driving behaviours
- Peace Officers must wait for an RCMP request to attend a motor vehicle collision on a primary highway before providing additional support. Cannot be requested by firefighters.
- Peace Officers are unable to respond lights and sirens to emergency incident requests for assistance.

# Proposed Approach

---

With Council approval, apply to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General for two additional authorities:

- Primary Highway Enforcement authority
- Emergency Response authority



# Expanded Primary Highway Authority

---

Enforcement activity will be limited to:

- public safety infractions observed by the officer as they are travelling on these highways
- special operations with other enforcement agencies

Examples of public safety infractions include:

- passing school buses with flashing red lights
- speeding in excess of 25km/h
- distracted driving that poses an obvious risk

***Note: Deciding to enforce on any roadway requires constant vigilance and weighing the risk of officer safety conducting a traffic stop with the risk to public safety of the infraction.***

# Emergency Response

---

With proposed enhancement, Provincial rules still limit emergency response by Peace Officers to the following situations:

- Injury collisions
- Providing backup to Police or Peace Officers where there is a reasonable belief that the Officer is in danger and the Peace Officer may be the closest assistance available
- Attending a fire or medical situation at the request of the Fire or EMS department
- Any emergent situation if requested by a Police service to attend in an emergency response capacity



# Municipal Comparators

---

Municipality	Primary Highway	Emergency Response
Strathcona County	✓	✓
Parkland County	✓	✓
Thorhild County	✓	✓
Westlock County	✓	✓
Athabasca County	✓	✓
Leduc County	✗	✓

# Benefits

---

- Primary Highway Authority would allow Peace Officers to provide enforcement on all roadways within Sturgeon County boundaries.
- Increased public safety on roadways within Sturgeon County
- Increased level of Officer Safety by allowing nearby Officers to respond to urgent calls for assistance
- Increased ability to provide timely traffic control and assistance at emergency scenes for Emergency Services
- Increased public confidence in County Peace Officers

# Implications

---

- May increase demand for services from Fire, RCMP, and the public.
- Internal training required for Peace Officers on standard operating procedures.
- Adds additional overlap in jurisdiction with RCMP that may require public education on Sturgeon County enforcement priorities.

# Next Steps

---

If Approved:

- Administration will seek the additional authority through the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.
- Administration will conduct staff training and ensure that Peace Officer procedures and protocols are updated to include the new authorities.

# Proposed Motion

---

- That Council direct Administration to seek Emergency Response authority for Sturgeon County Peace Officers through the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.
- That Council direct Administration to seek Primary Highway Enforcement authority for Sturgeon County Peace Officers through the Ministry of Justice and Solicitor General.



# Questions?

---

Thank you!