



REQUEST FOR DECISION

TO: Council **MEETING DATE:** December 4, 2024
FROM: James Nyhus Chief Building Official
SUBJECT: Request for Decision Vehicle Removal Amendment Bylaw No. 279-01, 2024
FILE NO: 3900-02

RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider first, second and third reading to the Vehicle Removal Amendment Bylaw No. 279-01, 2024.

PURPOSE

The Vehicle Removal Bylaw No. 279, 1995 refers to a repealed enactment and has out of date provisions and fees. An amendment to the bylaw is proposed to enable the District of Sechelt to pass on the costs of removal, storage and demolition, where necessary, to the last known owner of the vehicle.

OPTIONS

1. That Council refers the proposed bylaw amendment back to staff with direction.

DISCUSSION

Summary

There has been an increase in abandoned vehicles that District staff have had to manage over the past year, causing the District to incur expenses.

Part of these expenses include the costs of towing. The District recovers tow fees through the existing bylaw, however the fees are set at unrealistically low dollar amounts. The proposed amendment will allow staff to pass on the fees for towing and storage by a contractor hired by the District to the person who had custody of the vehicle, as well as storage on District property when necessary.

An administration fee is also required to recover some of the costs from administering the provisions of this bylaw.

Background

The Motor Vehicle Act permits the District to sell or salvage a vehicle that has been abandoned on a District highway (as defined in the proposed bylaw amendment) after giving the registered owner three days notice.

The amendment bylaw extends the notice period to seven days, using printed and social media platforms, during which staff will attempt to notify the registered owner that the District has taken the vehicle from a highway.

The costs of towing and storage are difficult to recover in most instances but having appropriate tools will help to offset the costs incurred by the District whenever possible.

POLICY AND BYLAW IMPLICATIONS

None.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

1. Social Sustainability and Community Well Being
2. Economic Sustainability

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

3. Community Safety and Wellbeing
6. Fostering a Vibrant Downtown Core

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This amendment bylaw aims to recover costs incurred from the removal of abandoned vehicles from the highway.

There is a limited budget available for towing and staff will ensure that the program is cost neutral and report to Council in the future if further complications arise.

COMMUNICATIONS

Upon adoption, the amendment bylaw will be published on the District of Sechelt website.

Respectfully submitted,

James Nyhus

Chief Building Official