

# Bylaw/Animal Control 2022 Budget

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

Bylaw Enforcement and Animal Control conducts enforcement on the various municipal bylaws that are under the purview of the County of Wetaskiwin. These bylaws include but are not limited to the Dog Control Bylaw, Land Use Bylaw, Nuisance and Unsightly Bylaw, Noise Bylaw, Sand and Gravel Aggregate Levy Bylaw, and Municipal, Environmental, and Conservation Reserve Bylaw. Enforcement of these Bylaws primarily occurs on a reactive complaint basis, with proactive enforcement occurring on public lands and education occurring for private lands within the surrounding area after the validation of the initial complaint. This process has been established by Council Strategic Direction to ensure fairness amongst citizens of a certain area. The Department comprises of a Supervisor, two (2) full-time Bylaw Enforcement/Animal Control Officers who serve a dual purpose for the County and one (1) Administrative Assistant, who also provides supplementary support to Protective Services and the Assistant Chief Administrative Officer on duties as assigned.

## FINANCIAL

	Budget 2021	Budget 2022	% Variance
Total Expenses	\$216,392	\$250,208	15.63
Total Revenues	\$6,000	\$9000	50
<b>Total Tax Support</b>	<b>-\$210,392</b>	<b>-\$241,208</b>	<b>14.65</b>

The overall 14.65 percent increase in overall Departmental Tax Support Needed, is a result of salary grid movements and allocating more money to the Department's legal budget to help support the desired level of service.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

This budget reflects an increased budgeting approach which is required to better facilitate the desired level of service provided. Even though there is an increase in the legal budget, the Department is still continually working on improving on overall effectiveness and efficiency and utilizing resources to their maximum potential.

## CHALLENGES

One of the biggest challenges currently faced by the Department is that of a lack of recognition and respect for County Bylaws by some of the citizens. It seems like the amount of files that require legal action to have compliance achieved is increasing steadily. Environmental and Municipal Reserve enforcement also generates large numbers of files and with those particular enforcement situations, any money spent on contractors or other County Departments for clean up cannot be put on the taxes of the landowners responsible for the infractions. The only cost recovery available in those situations is for the sale of the confiscated items to be sold at auction, unfortunately many of the items confiscated are of little to no value.