TO:	Mayor Small and Members of Council
SUBMITTED BY:	Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living
DATE:	March 17, 2025
SUBJECT:	Fireworks

ORIGIN: Ongoing consideration into the use of Fireworks

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY: MGA **47 (1)** The council shall make decisions in the exercise of its powers and duties by resolution, by policy or by by-law.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council direct staff on the continued use of fireworks and dedicate resources to the Community Living budget on an annual basis to cover these costs if needed.

BACKGROUND: For several years the Town of Amherst held Fireworks displays on Canada Day and for a period of time New Years Eve. This practice was stopped during Covid. Staff organized an event on December 31, 2024 with a fireworks display at a cost of 10,000.

DISCUSSION: The New Years Eve celebration had approximately 300-400 people in attendance. Majority of feedback was positive however some complained that the falling ash was getting in their faces and eyes. Alternate locations could be considered if the use of fireworks is continued.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Annual budget of $20,000 required to continue this practise.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: No community engagement required at this point.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS: Smoke- In comparison with other smoke producing activities typical firework displays generate far less smoke than other common activities such as burning leaves, summertime campfires, fireplaces in homes, and wood pellet stoves.

SOCIAL JUSTICE IMPLICATIONS: The effects of fireworks can trigger anxiety in pets and panic attacks or a flashback scenario for combat veterans who suffer with PTSD. Cost of fireworks is expensive and could be used for other projects or activities that reach a wider audience.

ALTERNATIVES: 1) Continue use of fireworks for Community Celebrations
2) Discontinue the practise of fireworks displays

ATTACHMENTS: None

Report prepared by: Sharon Bristol
Report and Financial approved by: