



AMHERST TOWN COUNCIL

RFD# 2025019

Date: March 24, 2025

TO: Mayor Small and Members of Council

SUBMITTED BY: Sharon Bristol, Director, Community Living

DATE: March 24, 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 approve of \$20,000 in the 2025/26 operating budget to include \$10,000 for Canada Day fireworks to be held at the Robb Complex and \$10,000 for New Years Eve fireworks to be held at the Amherst Stadium.

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: