



INFORMATION ONLY COUNCIL REPORT
Engineering / Public Works
For the February 25, 2020 Council Meeting

DATE: February 18, 2020
TO: Paul Gipps, CAO
FROM: Kyle Reese, Roads and Drainage Supervisor
RE: 2019-2020 Winter Maintenance Update

BACKGROUND:

The 2019/2020 winter season is the eighth winter season that AEL, a division of Emcon services, has provided the City of West Kelowna with winter road maintenance. The report provides Council with a summary update of 2019/2020 winter maintenance activities.

Winter Events

The Contractor submits snow and freezing event claims to City staff on a monthly basis. A snow event is defined as conditions requiring plowing in excess of 600 plowed kilometers/day. A freezing event is defined as conditions requiring application of anti-icing or de-icing chemical to all priority 1 and 2 roads. Under the current contract, the events are capped at 15 snow events and 20 freezing events per winter season. Any additional winter response is paid at cost plus rates as laid out within the contract. A summary of event claims up to February 12, 2020 are summarized in the table below

Event Type	Event Maximum in Contract	Confirmed Events	Confirmed Events Balance
Snow	15	13	2
Freezing	20	10	10

In comparison to data collected over the past 8 seasons, average event claims to the end of February are 13 snow and 11 freezing events. Although the City did see several very challenging back-to-back storm events and prolonged cold in early January, the winter response claims as a whole are in alignment with these historical averages.

2019/2020 Notables

- Early January the City received several large heavy snow events along with a prolonged stretch of cold weather resulting in compact and icy conditions throughout much of the region. The City Roads department did receive a spike in calls/concerns regarding perceived lack of sanding on many roads during this timeframe. This stretch of prolonged cold provided various challenges as anti-icing chemicals were ineffective at returning roads to bare pavement. Throughout this timeframe, the contractor was actively sanding

roadways in priority sequence. Unfortunately, due to the challenging conditions presented, there was a high volume of material loss as sand quickly blew off to the sides of roadways. The contractor reports that during an approximate two-week timeframe, they applied more than 50% of their annual sand stockpile to City roadways.

- Overall, the call concerns remain consistent with previous years as the trend continues to be regarding priority 3 roads (local roads and cul-de-sac's). This is expected as these roads do receive service last in an event response as the contractor does have up to 48 hours after a snow event ends. When back-to-back snow events occur, plow trucks are occasionally taken away from these local roads and sent back to highest priority roads first.
- With Council's approval of a second sidewalk snow-clearing machine in 2019, the City's Roads division of the Public Works Department, in collaboration with the Parks Department, have streamlined the in-house sidewalk snow-clearing program to include various sidewalks added to the community through either development or capital improvement in recent years. Leading into the 2019/2020 winter, staff identified several sections of sidewalk that were not identified as City maintained or have homes fronting them (i.e. homeowner responsibility). Staff intends to come forward to Council later in 2020 to update the list of exempt sidewalks listed in the Good Neighbor Bylaw to incorporate those sections identified and added this winter season.

This winter season is the eighth and final season under the current road maintenance contract which expires at the end of April 2020. Staff is pleased to report that throughout the course of the contract, AEL has continued to meet the requirements of the contract, working closely with City staff and residents in a collaborative and customer service oriented approach to delivering this service.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

Chris Anderson, Public Works Manager
Allen Fillion, Director of Engineering & PW
Warren Everton, Director of Finance/CFO
Tracey Batten, Deputy CAO/Corporate Officer
Paul Gipps, CAO

Powerpoint: Yes ☐ No ☒