



OTTAWA TAX PAYERS ADVOCACY GROUP

"The Silent Majority is Silent No More"

The Ottawa Taxpayer Advocacy Group Releases Detailed Plan for 2 Year Budget Freeze – No New Money

Bylaw

Kindly estimate the cost of providing each bylaw listed below?

A Councillor said that since amalgamation, we have moved from 18,000 to 80,000 complaints. This type of growth is unsustainable. What is the growth in the by-law budget from 2001 to 2010?

We have prioritized by-laws into 47 groups, if we cut the by-law operating and capital budget by 25% or about 5 million dollars what will be the impact on service? Please focus on the lower half, as we feel that half the by-laws should not be enforced except in extreme cases. In this question we are looking for your input on creative legal solutions to reduce the by-law budget and eventually make by-law self funding.

In certain cases the complainant should pay a token amount to make a complaint, they can be refunded if the violator is fined. The person, who complained about a cow on the roof top, should have paid a token fee to make the complaint.

For example the idling by law should not be enforced unless it involves a fleet of vehicles or exceeds 1 hour.

For example the tree by-law should not be enforced unless more than one tree is involved or more than 5 neighbors complain. Ditto for pesticide, signs on private property etc.

For example if a large land lord fails to provide heat or their building often has false alarms, they should pay for the associated costs, else there should be human verification before resources are deployed.

	Service	operating cost	Total Program
32	By-Law & Regulatory Services	18,740	17,965
	1. By-Lawbuilding		
	2. By-Lawcare Of Streets		
	3. By-Lawsnow And Ice		
	4. By-Lawroad Cuts		
	5. By-Law On Street Parking		
	6. By-Lawdischarge Of Firearms		
	7. By-Lawburn Permits		
	8. By-Lawnoise		
	9. By-Lawparks		
	10. By-Lawtaxis		
	11. By-Lawjunk/Debris		
	12. By-Lawprivate Roadways		
	13. By-Lawdriveways		
	14. By-Lawoff Street Parking		
	15. By-Lawencroachments		
	16. By-Lawinadequate Yard Maintenance		
	17. By-Lawminimum Temperature (Rental Units)		
	18. By-Lawbusiness Licensing		
	19. By-Lawbusiness Licensing - Personal Service Establishments		
	20. By-Lawbusiness Licensing - Restaurant		
	21. By-Lawbilingualism		
	22. By-Lawcats		
	23. By-Lawdogs		

24.	By-Lawanimal Care And Control		
25.	By-Lawsmoking - Public Place		
26.	By-Lawsmoking - Workplace		
27.	By-Lawtop Soil Preservation		
28.	By-Lawpublic Meetings		
29.	By-Lawjunk Mail		
30.	By-Lawvoluntary Admail Reduction Program		
31.	By-Lawtree Protection		
32.	By-Lawapartments In Houses		
33.	By-Lawpool Enclosures		
34.	By-Lawfence Height		
35.	By-Lawfences		
36.	By-Lawoutdoor Fireplaces		
37.	By-Lawfireworks		
38.	By-Lawvehicles - Oversize		
39.	By-Lawportable And Temporary Signs		
40.	By-Lawtemporary Signs On Private Property		
41.	By-Lawposting On Poster Collars		
42.	By-Lawstorage		
43.	By-Lawweeds		
44.	By-Lawidling Control		
45.	By-Law Garbage Inspectors		
46.	Directional Farm Signage Program		

City Response

The following table shows the expenditure and revenue budgets for By-law Services from 2001 to 2010.

Budget	Expenditures \$000	Revenues \$000	Net Surplus \$000
2001	9,610	(16,958)	(7,348)
2002	9,875	(15,827)	(5,952)
2003	11,280	(18,083)	(6,803)
2004	11,290	(18,287)	(6,997)
2005	12,875	(18,437)	(5,562)
2006	13,985	(18,793)	(4,808)
2007	15,067	(20,533)	(5,466)
2008	17,069	(22,010)	(4,941)
2009	16,708	(23,315)	(6,607)
2010	17,458	(23,290)	(5,832)

City Response

Any questions that deal with policy issues will not elicit staff City Response as setting policy is Council's prerogative. (For example: questions that ask staff to prioritize services are policy questions.)

City Response

As can be seen from the above table, revenues exceed the costs associated with By-law Services.

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Follow Up Question Bylaw

We absolutely need the cost of enforcing each of the 47 bylaws. The response that revenue is greater than the cost is insufficient as this likely means 20% of the bylaws are generating 80% of the revenue. It also means 20% of the bylaws are generating 80% of the costs. If we knew the cost of enforcing each bylaw, we could have a more informed debate about which by laws are not enforced except in extreme cases.
