

**TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS
ROYAL
POLICY**

TITLE: Fire Area Rate Policy	
POLICY NO.: #2024-09	SUPERSEDES:
EFFECTIVE DATE: June 19, 2024	DATE APPROVED BY COUNCIL: June 17, 2024 MOTION #C2024-07-17-12

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to support the Fire Services that are being provided in the Town of Annapolis Royal substantially through the efforts of volunteers, both in the direct provision of the service, and in fund-raising activities undertaken to finance these endeavours. The demands of modern living have made it more difficult for volunteers to undertake all the work necessary to provide these services.

2. Scope

Municipalities have a broad range of area rate powers. Section 75 of the Municipal Government Act provides that area rates may be used to finance all or part of the cost of any municipal service or facility that the Council deems to be of benefit to an area.

3. Policy and Procedures

3.1 Council

The Annapolis Royal Town Council shall consider the establishment of an area rate upon receipt of an application submitted in accordance with the terms of this policy.

3.2 Application

An application for the establishment or continuation of a fire area rate shall be submitted to the Town, having as its objective the provision of fire services by the Annapolis Royal Volunteer Fire Department referred to in this policy as the “applicant”. The application shall set out evidence of the department is in good standing and shall include a budget in support of the proposed area rate.

3.3 Ratepayer

“Ratepayer” means a person residing within the Town and rated on the current assessment roll of the Town and the spouse of such person as defined in the Matrimonial Property Act.

3.4 Area to which the rate applies

An application for the establishment of an area rate shall define the area to which the rate is to apply, with sufficient clarity to allow for proper implementation of the rate for billing purposes. The area shall be defined by resolution of the Council at the time of the setting of the area rate.

3.5 Timing of Area Rate Submission

Area rate application will be considered by Council only during the Town's budget process. Applications must be submitted by March 1, in each year starting in March 2025.

3.6 Annual Application and Accountability

An area rate does not continue automatically from year to year. An application must be submitted each year for the continuation of an area rate. In each year following the setting of an area rate, an applicant shall submit to Council, audited financial statements covering the preceding year, and a statement of activities carried on in that year, the budget, and the amount of the proposed rate for the coming year.

3.7 Application of the Area Rate

An area rate for fire services established under this policy shall be applied to all taxable property assessment including residential, resource and commercial assessments for the Town of Annapolis Royal.

3.8 Town Staff

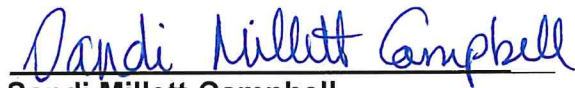
Town staff shall provide the assessment data to the applicant and such advice to Council, as Council requires.

3.9 Council Budget Decision

Council will review the area rate in application process but has the final decision on setting the area rate each year.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that this policy was duly passed by a majority vote of the whole Council at a duly called Council meeting held on the 17 day of July 2024.

GIVEN under the hand of the CAO and under the seal of the Town of Annapolis Royal the 22 day of July 2024.



Sandi Millett-Campbell
Chief Administrative Officer