

Date: April 23, 2025

To: **Mayor and Council**

Name and title: Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Subject: Snow and Ice Control Costing Breakdown (November 1st to December 31st, 2024.)

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated April 23, 2025 titled “Snow and Ice Control Costing Breakdown (November 1st to December 31st, 2024), from the Director of Civic Operations.

Purpose:

This report is presented to Council in response to a Council resolution directing administration to provide a breakdown of the Snow and Ice Control expenditures from November 1st to December 31st, 2024.

Discussion:

Snow and Ice Control is a significant cost for the City of Prince George. The costs associated with having staff on hand and at the ready is approximately \$133,000 per week. This excludes the cost of any snow events or overtime. Contracted equipment retainers are an additional approx. \$57,500 per month. Additional costs associated with Snow and Ice Control include internal equipment and contractors, as well as traction materials and ice melting chlorides. See Table 1.

Three (3) Priority 3 snow events occurred between November 1st and December 31st, 2024. See Table 2 below for costs associated with each event, as well as the snowfall accumulation during the event and the duration to clear. The total cost as a direct result of these events was approximately \$1,680,000.

Snow and Ice Control at City-owned facilities is also funded by the Snow and Ice Control Budget. The threshold for a snow event is lower for these facilities (50mm) and was triggered three (3) times for a total cost of approximately \$380,000. See Table 3 for a detailed breakdown.

Total snow accumulations between November 1st and December 31st, 2024 are shown below on Table 4. Even the most insignificant amount of snow results in operating and maintenance activities to ensure safe passage for pedestrians and motorists throughout the City.

The purchase of winter traction materials is an often-overlooked cost associated with Snow and Ice Control. The total cost of all winter road maintenance materials and chlorides for 2024 was \$743,589.

Another cost drawing from the Snow and Ice Control Budget is retroactive employee pay. As a result of the ratification of the new Collective Agreement, individuals returning to the Roads Division for their winter seasonal positions were entitled to retroactive pay. The cost of this was approximately \$296,000. This cost was borne by the Snow and Ice Control Budget and was incurred prior to the end of the 2024 fiscal year.

During the shoulder season, at the beginning and end of winter, crews are tasked with a variety of maintenance projects including ditching, brush clearing, flailing, and culvert replacement. These tasks are funded under Alternate Snow, which is part of the overall Snow and Ice Control Budget.

Table 1

Snow and Ice Control Costs, November 1st to December 31st, 2024		
Activity	Cost	Percentage of Total
Equipment Retainer	\$98,000	2%
External Equipment	\$1,081,228	24%
City Equipment	\$1,169,473	26%
Labour (Including Burdens)	\$1,252,489	28%
Labour Overtime	\$286,224	6%
Winter Traction Materials & Chlorides	\$551,999	12%
Safety Supplies, Snow Dump Costs	\$38,823	1%
Total	\$4,478,236	100%

Table 2

Snow Events November- December 2024		
Date	Total Snow Accumulation (mm)	Total Event Cost
November 24, 2024	151	\$496,949
November 29, 2024	200	\$642,459
December 18, 2024	114	\$540,552

Table 3

Facilities Snow and Ice Control Costs, November 1st to December 31st, 2024	
Facility	Cost
Aquatics Centre - 1711 George Paul Lane	\$26,365
Elksentre - 4834 Heather Road	\$21,412
Civic Centre & Plaza, PG Public Library, Two Rivers Art Gallery, Canfor Leisure Pool, and associated parking	\$66,026
Brunswick Seniors Centre - 425 Brunswick Street	\$8,836
City Hall, Kopar Arena, and associated parking	\$62,611
CJG (Tennis Courts, Masich & Del Laverdure Way)	\$942
Connaught Youth Centre - 1491 17th Avenue	\$5,904
Elder Citizens Recreation Area - 1692 10th Ave	\$11,620
Exhibition Park - 2187 Ospika Boulevard	\$65,365
Exploration Place - 333 Becott Place	\$12,003
Firehalls #1,2,3 & 4	\$15,174
Memorial Park Cemetery 3277 - Memorial Park Lane	\$17,520
Prince George Playhouse - 2626 Recplace Drive	\$9,761
Quinn Street Transfer Station - 6556 Broddy Road	\$13,403
RCMP Detachment - 455 Victoria Street	\$29,801
Prince George Animal Shelter - 4011 Lansdowne Road	\$5,093
Studio 2880 - 2880 15th Avenue	\$7,605
YMCA Entrance	\$183
Total	\$379,624

Table 4

Snow Accumulation Measurements November - December 2024		
Date	Snow accumulation (mm)	Notes
November 16-17, 2024	125+	Snowfall throughout the weekend. Total approx. 125mm in the bowl, 250mm in the Hart.
November 18, 2024	22	Snowfall started approx. 1am November 18, ended at noon.
November 22-24, 2024	151	Total accumulation from November 22nd at 11pm to November 24th at 10am.
November 27, 2024	26	Snowfall started late morning, ended early afternoon.
November 28-29, 2024	65	Snowfall periodically early November 28th to early November 29th.
November 30, 2024	135	Snowfall overnight, ending mid morning. Minor snow in the afternoon and evening.
December 1, 2024	65	Snowfall overnight, ending in the morning. Snow resumed in the afternoon, ended in the evening. Total throughout the weekend of 200mm.
December 13-15, 2024	90	Snowfall occurred between December 13th evening and December 15th morning.
December 18, 2024	114	Snowfall overnight, ending early morning. Snow resumed during the evening.
December 19, 2024	50	Snowfall during the day, ending in the evening. Melting and freezing rain occurring.

Strategic Priorities:

Snow and Ice Control is a Council priority as identified in the Snow and Ice Control Policy.

Summary and conclusion:

Regardless of snow accumulation during any given day, daily operating and maintenance procedures are required to maintain personnel and equipment readiness, limit liability to the City, and provide safe passage to users of City owned roads, sidewalks, and facilities.

Annual costs continue to rise with inflation, particularly since the onset of the pandemic. Additionally, the ongoing strain on the heavy equipment and operating industry in northern BC continues to have a negative impact on contractors' ability to retain qualified personnel, which in turn increases costs.

Administration is continuously exploring cost saving measures for potential implementation, while maintaining the quality of service that residents and visitors have become accustomed to. We are a northern city that sees significant annual snowfall, and we continue to provide above average snow clearing service to our residents.

Respectfully submitted:

Blake McIntosh, Director of Civic Operations

Prepared By: Jordan Wiseman, Manager Roads & Fleet

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2025/04/23