

## Report to Council

<b>Report Title:</b>	Downtown Winter Maintenance		
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations		
<b>Department:</b>	Operations		
<b>Date:</b>	February 11, 2025		
<b>Report Number:</b>	PW2025-1	<b>File Number:</b>	C11, PW
<b>Attachments:</b>	N/A		

### Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives report number PW2025-01 Downtown Winter Maintenance prepared by Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations for information purposes and in so doing chooses Option \_\_\_\_ related to the level of service for snow removal activities for downtown Walkerton and area.

### Report:

#### Background:

Brockton operations staff take pride in their roles to keep the arteries of civilization flowing, namely the streets and paths of travel open for residents, tourists and emergency first responders. This involves endless hours in winter maintenance equipment, covering over eight hundred and fifty lane kilometers of roadway and an extensive network of sidewalks in Walkerton, Chepstow, Cargill and Elmwood. They are first out on the roads, coordinating route times with the County, MTO and each other to ensure service to the best possible standard, often exceeding the O.Reg 239/02: Minimum Maintenance Standards.

With our Canadian winters comes uncertainty. Uncertainty as to what type of weather Brockton will receive throughout the winter. Staff have always strived to be fiscally responsible with the winter budget when it comes to snow removal operations. Specific to the downtown area of Walkerton snow bank removal operations occur when accumulation is such that it reaches the point of inconvenience. The cost to truck snow out of town varies, depending on accumulation, and can range from \$12,000 - \$20,000 for each occurrence.

#### Analysis:

Fully dependent on the weather, snow removal could happen weekly, every second week or bi-monthly. Staff do their best to mitigate issues and ensure safety for residents and businesses while still striving to keep spending within the allotted budget. This winter we have seen significant snowfall that has also brought rise to additional concerns related to access to the downtown sidewalks and the business community. As such, with

finalizing budget discussions in the near future we felt it prudent to confirm Council's level of service expectation related to the snow bank removal in the downtown area of Walkerton. Should Council direct that an increased level of service be initiated requiring the removal of snow more often, additional funds would need to be added to the winter control budget. For snow removal approximately twice as often, staff would recommend an additional \$100,000 be added to the winter control budget. This would allow for an additional 5 to 8 removal occurrences depending on the volume of snow. To confirm Council's support for the level of service staff present two options for councils' consideration.

**Option 1:** Maintain the current level of service for snow removal activities in the downtown area and manage within the current budget.

**Option 2:** Increase the current level of service for snow removal activities and in doing so, approve a \$100,000 increase to the operating budget.

### **Strategic Action Plan Checklist:**

What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision                       | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community              | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life                               | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development                          | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance                          | Yes |

### **Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:**

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

Increasing the level of service would result in an additional \$100,000 to the operating budget for winter control activities related to snow removal in the downtown area of Walkerton.

### **Reviewed By:**



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

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### **Respectfully Submitted by:**



Nicholas Schnurr, Director of Operations

**Reviewed By:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sonya Watson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer