



To: Chief Administrative Officer **Date:** May 21, 2024
From: Dylan Stewart, Operations Manager – Roads and Drainage
Subject: **2024 Snow Report**

Recommendation(s)

This report is for information only and summarizes the 2023/2024 snow season.

Purpose

This report summarizes the snow season (Fall 2023 to Spring 2024), including updates to the City's snow removal contract, downtown parking stall clearing, camera installs, salt inventory, and fleet expansion.

Background

The first half of the 2023/2024 snow season was very mild with no significant snow or ice events. In January, the city experienced a notable drop in temperatures accompanied by heavy precipitation, resulting in a substantial snow fall event with upwards of 40 cm of snow falling in a 24-hour period. The City spent \$730,000 in 2023, which is a reduction in cost of \$348,000 from the previous season. The snow budget fluctuates from year to year depending on the average spent in prior years. However, the City's level of service does not change even when costs go over budget.

Discussion and Analysis

Sidewalk and Parking Stall Snow Clearing

The City renewed its sidewalk snow removal contract for the 2023/2024 season. Additional work was added to our sidewalk snow clearing program to include the newly installed 7th Avenue greenway. A core increase of \$10,000 was added to the snow budget in anticipation of added costs.

In December 2023 a resolution was passed to provide parking stall clearing in the downtown area. The clearing of parking stalls would include N Railway Avenue, 1st Avenue, 2nd Avenue and all intersecting streets from Horne Street to Grand Street. A cost sharing proposal was agreed upon by the City and Mission Downtown Business Association (DBA).

Staff and the DBA will draft a contribution agreement. As a gesture of good faith, the City's contractor commenced parking stall clearing as per the draft proposal with the cost being 100% funded by the City. The cost to clear parking stalls during January's snow event was \$12,371.

Cameras

In 2022, Public Works staff installed three additional cameras to provide staff and public with updated road conditions in some key areas of the city, including Stave Lake Street, Cedar Street and Hurd Street. This was in addition to the five cameras previously installed. The new cameras were well received by the community and staff, so in 2023 Council provided additional budget to install four more cameras, which were installed on Nelson Street, Draper Street,

Cedar Connector, and the Public Works building. Unfortunately, five of the eleven cameras were either vandalized or stolen. Public Works staff are currently exploring options to reinstall cameras in those areas but need to consider the financial burden and potential risk of recurring vandalism. The cost to replace each camera with improved protection would be between \$15,000 to \$25,000, with the total cost between \$60,000 to \$100,000.

Equipment

In 2022, Council approved the purchase of two new 1 tonne trucks equipped with plows and sanders. This decision stemmed from the need to replace older vehicles that were becoming expensive to maintain and increasingly unreliable. Those vehicles will be purchased and funded in 2025.

In addition to the new vehicles, Council also authorized the procurement of a new front-end loader, which was delivered in April. This addition to the fleet will serve as an additional piece of equipment for snow response, as it will be outfitted with a front mount plow. This enhancement will greatly aid problem areas and serve as a dependable backup for loading salt in the yard.

Staff are currently evaluating the Silverdale development project, focusing on the potential impact of additional roads on existing service levels. It's anticipated that extra equipment may be required to accommodate these changes. Staff will propose a spending package once the necessary resources have been identified.

The City has the following snow equipment:

- 4 – Tandem dump trucks
- 2 – Single axle dump trucks
- 6 – One tonne trucks
- 3 – Backhoes
- 2 – Loaders
- 1 – Grader

Salt Supply and Storage

It was noted in the 2022/2023 snow season update that an increase to the salt purchasing contract and storage was needed to ensure the City maintained salt inventory during prolonged snow events or when regional supply is low. In response, the City increased the salt contract by 200 tonnes per year and increased storage capacity by 400 tonnes.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. The attached table details the budget, actuals and variances over the past 10 years (Attachment A).

Communication

No communication action is required.

Summary and Conclusion

This report outlines the enhancements made to the City's snow response program based on the recommendations outlined in the 2022/2023 snow season report. These enhancements encompassed various aspects, such as clearing parking stalls in the downtown core, clearing the greenway on 7th Avenue, installing three new cameras, boosting salt supply and storage capacity, acquiring a new front loader, and scheduling the delivery of two new 1-tonne plow trucks by 2025. With the support of Council, the department has significantly bolstered our

ability to respond effectively to snow events within our community. Staff remain committed to ensuring the safety of City roads and providing a high level of service to Mission's residents.

Report Prepared by: Dylan Stewart, Operations Manager Roads and Drainage

Reviewed by: Tracy Kyle, Director of Engineering and Public Works

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment(s)

Attachment A: 10-year Budget Actuals and Variances