



Report
Staff Report
 The Corporation of the City of Brampton
 11/27/2024

Date: 2024-11-13

Subject: **2025 User Fees – Community Services, Corporate Support Services, Legislative Services, Public Works & Engineering, Planning, Building & Growth Management, and the Office of the CAO**

Contact: Nash Damer, Treasurer, Finance

Report number: Corporate Support Services-2024-947

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the report from Kartik Sengar, Manager, Finance to the Committee of Council Meeting of November 27, 2024, re: **2025 User Fees – Community Services, Corporate Support Services, Legislative Services, Public Works & Engineering, Planning, Building & Growth Management, and Office of the CAO**, be received;
2. That the user fee charges proposed for 2025, as set out in Schedules A to J of this report, be approved; and
3. That a by-law be brought forward for Council’s consideration to establish a new User Fee By-law, and to repeal By-law 380-2003, as amended.

OVERVIEW:

- The City’s user fees are reviewed annually to ensure appropriate cost recovery, sustainability of programs/services, preservation of service quality, affordability, consistency, and customer satisfaction.
- The recommended user fee adjustments have been proposed to help alleviate the impact on the property tax rate, while also ensuring that programs are priced appropriately in relation to market comparators.
- Community Services applied a comprehensive pricing strategy based on inflation, cost recovery, and benchmarking, moving away from a blanket fee increase approach.
- Recreation fees continue to be below benchmarking even after proposed increases of 3.0% to 5.0% for the majority of program, membership, drop-in, and rental rates. Recreation continues to keep resident costs low for core services with inflationary increases only. Premium services were increased up

to 7.5% where Recreation continues to be significantly below market rates, including specialized camps, private and small group lessons, and golf rounds. To further improve cost recovery Recreation has increased non-resident surcharges to at least 50% above resident rates.

- Cultural Services proposes user fees based on inflation, cost recovery, and benchmarking while considering the unique needs of the local artists and arts organizations. Service fees, staff recoveries, and rental pricing were evaluated in detail translating to a range of fee increases from 3.0% (inflationary) to 4.0% (cost-recovery). New fees are captured to support service expansion.
- Parks rental fees are increasing due to the increase in cost to replace the rental items. The proposed increase in the Parks extra rental fees is approximately 3%. Consistent with local private cemetery service providers, the proposed increase in the other cemetery supplies and services is approximately 3%.
- Brampton Fire & Emergency Services proposes increasing most user fees by 3.0% to keep pace with the increased costs of providing services to the public.
- Corporate Support Services and Office of the CAO fees remain unchanged.
- Legislative Services fees remain largely unchanged. Legal Services is proposing increasing a number of user fees by 5% to align closer to fees charged by other municipalities.
- The Public Works and Engineering Department proposes adjustments in user fees for rentals and services under Facilities, Operations, and Maintenance. This proposal aims to strike a balance between addressing inflationary pressures and market-based factors while ensuring accessibility and fairness for our community members. The key changes include a 2% increase in rates for security guard services and 3% increase in user fees for other services and facility rentals.
- Planning, Building & Growth Management is proposing changes based on the amendment to the User Fees by-law due to the approval of the new Site Alteration by-law in June 2024.
- Environment & Development Engineering are proposing an increase to the stormwater charge rate of 3.4% effective April 1, 2025, which aligns with general inflation adjustments. This would increase the stormwater charge rate per billing unit from \$92.03 to \$95.16 per year but would remain low compared to other municipalities.
- User fee increases result in \$2.8M of additional revenues in the 2025 budget, of which \$1.4M is from stormwater charges.

BACKGROUND:

On an annual basis, staff review program and service user fees and recommend changes for Council approval. Pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, public notice must be given when Council is considering amendments to rates and fees.

Service fees associated with food/beverage products and merchandise are not considered to be user fees and therefore are not included as part of this report.

The Transit department will bring a separate User Fees Report for Council approval at a future date.

As of 2024, Stormwater Charges are included in the annual User Fee Report.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The City is committed to providing numerous programs and services to residents, which are both affordable and deliver value for money. User fees help recover costs while reducing the burden on the property tax rate, and the delicate balance of cost recovery, affordability, and property tax reduction are the central goals when pricing programs and services.

All operating areas review user fees periodically and recommend amendments to the User Fee By-law as required. In reviewing user fees, staff consider several factors, including:

- the cost to provide a service;
- current demand and market conditions;
- comparison and benchmarking of user fees with other services available in and around Brampton;
- consistency of fees for similar services within the department; and
- responsiveness of fee structures and options with user needs and preferences.

User fees are charged on a variety of the City's services and are included in the City's User Fee By-Law. Based on this information, staff recommend changes to user fees, keeping in mind the general objective of affordable, accessible service and administrative efficiency. Efforts have been made to compress, categorize, and streamline the inventory of user fees associated with programs and services to make user fees more transparent, consistent and easier to understand to the resident.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Recreation

Recreation increases address inflationary impacts, cost recovery, and reflect thorough benchmarking completed by staff. Higher increases are proposed where rates are significantly below benchmarking, including specialized camps, private and small group swim lessons, private and small group skate lessons, golf rounds, and meeting room

rates. To further improve cost recovery and reduce the gap with municipal comparators, non-resident surcharges for programs, memberships, and rentals have been increased from 25 to 50%.

Parks and Forestry

Parks rental fees have an increase of 3.0% except for tent rentals, which have been aligned to market rates. Fees for cemetery services and dedication trees and benches have an increase of 3.0% to cover inflationary costs.

Cultural Services

Cultural Services is proposing a 3.0% increase for all facility rental rates, including those for local artists and arts organizations, to address inflationary pressures. Additionally, a 4.0% increase in staffing and staff-related services is planned to ensure cost recovery, aligned with part-time wage increases, negotiated hourly rates, and industry benchmarks.

New fees have been introduced for services not previously captured, ensuring comprehensive cost recovery and supporting service expansion.

Fire And Emergency Services

Brampton Fire & Emergency Services proposes increasing most of its user fees by 3.0% to keep pace with the increased costs of providing services to the public. Motor Vehicle Collision User Fee rates will continue to be adjusted at a later date based on the most recent remuneration rate provided by the Ministry of Transportation.

CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES

Corporate Support Services fees remain unchanged.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

Legislative Services fees remain largely unchanged.

Legal Services is proposing increasing a number of user fees by 5% to align closer to fees charged by other municipalities.

PUBLIC WORKS AND ENGINEERING

Facilities Operations and Maintenance

This report outlines the necessary adjustments to user fees for rentals, security guard services, and other services across municipal facilities. The proposed fee increases are intended to address rising operational costs driven by inflation and market conditions. It is recommended that user fees for security guard services be increased by 2%, while fees for rentals and other services be adjusted by 3% to ensure cost recovery and continued service sustainability.

PLANNING, BUILDING & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Environment & Development Engineering

The new Site Alteration By-law was approved on June 27, 2024 and the User Fee By-law 380-2003 was amended to update the User fees associated with permit and renewal fees, considering several factors, including the cost of administration, current demand conditions, comparison and benchmarking of user fees, consistency of fees for similar services, the responsiveness of fee structures, and options for different scales of work.

User fees for Site Plan Alterations will be moved from Road Maintenance, Operations and Fleet Fees to Planning, Building and Growth Management, under Environment and Development Engineering, based on the Department responsible for administering these permits.

Topsoil Removal Permit User fees are also proposed to be removed, as Topsoil By-law 30-92 is repealed.

Environment & Development Engineering are proposing an increase to the stormwater charge rate of 3.4% effective April 1, 2025, which aligns with general inflation adjustments. This would increase the stormwater charge rate per billing unit from \$92.03 to \$95.16 per year but would remain low compared to other municipalities.

OFFICE OF THE CAO

Office of the CAO fees remain unchanged.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

The 2025 recommended operating budgets for all departments (excluding Transit) will include the proposed user fees recommended in this report, resulting in an anticipated revenue growth (excluding the impact of volume growth) of approximately \$2,774,387 which represents a 0.2% relief on the overall property tax bill. This impact will be captured as part of a “revenue adjustment” in the 2025 budget.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA:

This report achieves the Government & Leadership strategic focus area by providing an alternative non-tax funding source to enhance the quality of life of Brampton residents.

CONCLUSION:

The City continues to review user fees on an annual basis, keeping in mind the objectives of affordable and accessible services while balancing user fees with implications for property taxes. Staff will continue to conduct costing, benchmarking,

and customer surveys to support user fee recommendations. The proposed rate adjustments have been made for those programs/services that can absorb the increase or decrease without negatively affecting resident participation or revenue.

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Reviewed by:

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Attachments:

The following Schedules only include fees that are changing:

- Attachment 1 – Schedule A – Community Services Rates and Fees (for Report)
- Attachment 2 – Schedule C – Legislative Services Rates and Fees (for Report)
- Attachment 3 – Schedule D – Public Works and Engineering Rates and Fees (for Report)
- Attachment 4 – Schedule E – Planning, Building & Growth Management Rates and Fees (for Report)
- Attachment 5 – Schedule I – Stormwater Charges (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026) (for Report)

The following Schedules are the complete set of fees:

- Attachment 6 – Schedule A – Community Services Rates and Fees (for By-Law)
- Attachment 7 – Schedule B – Corporate Support Services Rates and Fees (for By-Law)
- Attachment 8 – Schedule C – Legislative Services Rates and Fees (for By-Law)

- Attachment 9 – Schedule D – Public Works and Engineering Rates and Fees (for By-Law)
- Attachment 10 – Schedule E – Planning, Building & Growth Management Rates and Fees (for By-Law)
- Attachment 11 – Schedule F – Transit Division Fees & Charges (for By-Law)
- Attachment 12 – Schedule G - Office of the CAO Rates and Fees (for By-Law)
- Attachment 13 – Schedule H – Stormwater Charges (June 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025) (for By-Law)
- Attachment 14 – Schedule I – Stormwater Charges (April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026) (for By-Law)