

Report

Date February 4, 2026

File:

Subject Fire Protection Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4043, 2026 for Introduction

PURPOSE

To introduce Fire Protection Bylaw No. 4043, 2026, which proposes to amend Fire Protection Bylaw No. 3841, 2011, to update definitions and legislative references to align with the *Fire Safety Act*.

BACKGROUND

The *Fire Safety Act* (FSA), effective August 1, 2024, replaces the *Fire Services Act*, 1996, enhancing fire safety in British Columbia through clear property owner responsibilities, stricter enforcement and penalties, improved inspection and evacuation processes and expanded cost recovery powers for local governments. The FSA also introduces new roles, such as Local Authorities and Monitoring Authorities, and requires clear designations for Inspectors and Investigators.

The Fire Protection Bylaw was last updated in 2021, before the new *Fire Safety Act* was enacted. Updating the bylaw ensures alignment with the FSA roles and responsibilities.

DISCUSSION

Amending Fire Protection Bylaw No. 3841, 2011, to align with the FSA is necessary to ensure compliance with provincial legislation and to strengthen fire safety measures within the municipality. The proposed amendments to Fire Protection Bylaw, No. 3841, 2011 address three key issues:

1. Compliance with the new *Fire Safety Act* (2024).
The new *Fire Safety Act* introduces significant changes and updates to responsibilities, authorities, and definitions, rendering the existing municipal bylaw outdated and non-compliant.
2. Updated Fire Department Organizational Structure.
The amendments formally add and define the Deputy Fire Chief position to reflect the current structure of the Fire Department.
3. Updated Legislative and Regulatory References.
Many provincial acts and regulations referenced in the Fire Protection Bylaw have been updated to include new terminology or cross-references. These are corrected to ensure accuracy and consistency.

OPTIONS

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council gives first, second and third readings to Fire Protection Amendment Bylaw No. 4043, 2026.
2. THAT Council retain the existing language in the Fire Protection Bylaw No. 3841.
 - Advantages: None identified.
 - Disadvantages: Operational inefficiencies and potential for noncompliance with the *Fire Safety Act*.

IMPLICATIONS

Proceeding with this bylaw amendment will make the Fire Protection Bylaw more compliant with the Fire Safety Act and will identify and establish the Deputy Fire Chief position.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council gives first, second and third readings to Fire Protection Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4043, 2026.

Report prepared by:

Jason deJong

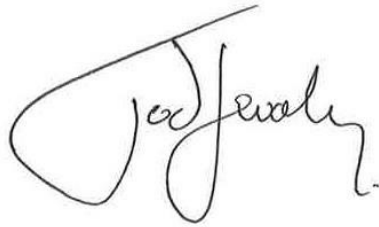
Jason deJong
Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Inspections

Report reviewed by:



Ron French
Fire Chief

Approved to be forwarded to Council:



Ted Swabey
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

(1) Fire Protection Bylaw Amendment Bylaw No. 4043, 2026