

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 1 of 6
Review Date:	



INTERMUNICIPAL FUNDING POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish equitable intermunicipal cost sharing formulas for programs that are jointly funded by the County and the urban municipalities within the County's border.

This policy will specify the minimum level of funding that Vulcan County will contribute to particular programs, subject to budget constraints and whether the funding is superseded by specific contracts and/or agreements.

The following programs are included in this policy:

- Recreation and Culture
- Fire Protection Services
- Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- a) ***Equalized Assessment*** – means of comparing property wealth in a uniform manner for all municipalities. The Equalized Assessment is a process of adjusting each municipality's taxable assessment to a common year in accordance with current legislation and policy. The Equalized Assessment is provided by the Government of Alberta on an annual basis.
- b) ***Intermunicipal*** – for the purpose of this policy, intermunicipal shall mean an agreement between Vulcan County and one or more of the urban municipalities located within the boundary of the County.
- c) ***Land-Mass Coverage*** – means the amount of land/area that is encompassed within a geographic area. For the purpose of this policy, it would equate to the land within a defined area/district within the County.
- d) ***Linear Assessment*** – relates to the assessment on linear property as defined in Municipal Government Act, Section 284(1)(k).
- e) ***Population*** – the population is collected through federal census data and/or municipal census and represents the amount of people dwelling within a defined area and/or municipality. For the purpose of this Policy, this includes the population within a defined area/district within the County, population within the County, and populations within the town and/or villages within the County.

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 2 of 6
Review Date:	

2.0 FUNDING ALLOCATION – RECREATION AND CULTURE

Recreation and Culture within Vulcan County is established through local Recreation Boards and funded in part by Vulcan County (refer to Vulcan County’s Recreation District Bylaw). Vulcan County’s Recreation and Culture Funding Policy shall be referred to for more information.

The following are the intermunicipal cost sharing formulas and the related factors that determine the funding allocations:

The Recreational & Cultural Allocations shall be based on factors of Equalized Assessment and Populations within the Recreational Districts and the town and/or villages. The Equalized Assessment is utilized to represent factors relating to taxation for the municipalities. Populations are utilized to represent factors relating to the amount of people that are eligible to use the district’s recreation & cultural activities.

See Appendix A1 for the Recreational & Cultural cost sharing formulas.

These formulas are applied to the applicable Recreation and Cultural Funding Requests as approved in the County Operating Budget through Policy 12-2215 (Recreation and Culture Funding Policy) for each of the Recreational Districts. The County may provide supplemental funding above the cost sharing model if considered appropriate.

3.0 FUNDING ALLOCATION – FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Fire Protection Services are managed in accordance with Vulcan County’s Fire Service Bylaw. The following allocation model determines the intermunicipal contributions to provide Fire Protection Services.

There are multiple funding and cost allocations within Fire Protection Services, including but not limited to the following:

- Share of General Fire Services to Fire Protection Districts
- Share of Fire Protection Linear Revenues
- Urban municipalities for cost sharing allocations

a) General Fire Services and Linear Allocations

The allocation for the *Share of General Fire Services to Fire Protection Districts* and the *Share of Fire Protection Linear Revenues* shall be based on factors of Land-Mass Coverage and Populations within the Fire Protection Districts. The Land-Mass Coverage is utilized to represent factors relating to size of area that is being protected by the Fire Protection District. Populations are utilized to represent factors relating to the amount of people and dwellings that are being protected by the Fire Protection District.

See Appendix A2 for the General Fire Services and Linear Allocations.

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 3 of 6
Review Date:	

The allocations for the *Share of General Fire Services to Fire Protection Districts* (allocation of overhead costs) are applied to 50% of the net applicable costs within the General Fire Services and are distributed to each of the Fire Protection Districts. The remaining 50% of General Fire Services costs are funded by general municipal taxes for the County.

The allocations for the Share of Fire Protection Linear Revenues are applied to 75% of the Fire Protection Linear Revenues raised by special tax levies (net of the estimated uncollectable linear assessment) and these applicable linear revenue allocations are distributed to each of the Fire Protection Districts. The remaining 25% of Linear Revenues of Fire Services are contributed to the Fire Services capital replacement plan as a capital reserve contribution.

b) Urban Municipalities for Cost Sharing Allocation

The Fire Protection Services Allocations for the urban municipalities shall be based on factors of Equalized Assessment within the Fire Protection Districts and the town and/or villages. The Equalized Assessment is utilized to represent factors relating to taxation for the municipalities.

See Appendix A3 for the Fire Protection Services Allocations to the Urban Municipalities cost sharing formulas.

These cost sharing formulas are applied to the applicable net costs of the Fire Protection Services within the regionalized Fire Protection Areas. The net costs relate to the total expenditures to operate the fire protection area, less the applicable costs recoveries, linear allocations, grants and reserves used within the Fire Protection District.

Should the County consider providing supplementary funding to a specific Fire Protection District, that same supplementary funding ratio should be applied to the other applicable regionalized fire districts.

4.0 FUNDING ALLOCATION – REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Plan (VCREMP) is managed in accordance with Vulcan County’s Regional Emergency Management Bylaw.

Allocations shall be based on factors of Equalized Assessment (excluding linear) within Vulcan County and the town and/or villages. The Equalized Assessment is utilized to represent factors relating to taxation for the municipalities.

See Appendix A4 for the VCREMP cost sharing formulas.

This sharing formula is applied to the applicable emergency management costs as approved by the VCREMP Committee and included within the County Operating Budget. The County may provide supplemental funding above the cost sharing model if considered appropriate.

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 4 of 6
Review Date:	

5.0 REFERENCES

Legislative: County Bylaw 2022-027 – Vulcan County Recreation Districts
County Bylaw 2022-029 – Regional Emergency Management Bylaw
County Bylaw 2023-010 – Fire Services Bylaw

County Policies: Policy 12-2215 - Recreation & Culture Funding

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 5 of 6
Review Date:	

APPENDIX A

A1 - Recreation & Cultural Cost-Sharing Formula

Weighting	Factor	Details & Information
50%	Equalized Assessment (excluding linear)	<p>Compares the Equalized Assessment or Actual District Assessment between the Recreation District and the relating town/villages within the district. Linear Assessment is excluded from these calculations. This creates a percentage of urban/rural assessment compared to the total assessment within the Recreation District.</p> <p>The most recent/applicable Equalized Assessment or District Assessment shall be used and may be updated once the updated data is available (should the change be significant).</p>
50%	Population within Recreational District	<p>Compares the Populations between the Recreation District and the relating town/villages within the district. This creates a percentage of urban/rural population compared to the total population within the Recreation District.</p> <p>The most recent federal census data and/or municipal census shall be used; whereas, should there be an updated federal census, the Recreational District Populations may be pro-rated until the next municipal census is completed.</p>

A2 – General Fire Services and Linear Allocation Formula

Weighting	Factor	Details & Information
50%	Land-Mass Coverage	<p>Compares the total land area of each Fire Services District to the total land area within the County. and the relating town/village within the district.</p> <p>This remains fixed from year-to-year if the boundaries of the districts remain unchanged.</p>
50%	Population within Fire Protection District	<p>Compares the Populations within the Fire Protection District compared to the total population within the County. and the relating town/village within the district. This creates a percentage of the population within the Fire Protection District compared to the total population.</p> <p>The most recent federal census data and/or municipal census shall be used; whereas, should there be an updated federal census, the Fire Protection District Populations may be pro-rated until the next municipal census is completed.</p>

VULCAN COUNTY POLICY NO. 12-2223	Intermunicipal Funding Policy
Effective: January 1, 2025	Amended:
Cross Reference: CC 2024-07-10-09	Page 6 of 6
Review Date:	

A3 - Fire Protection Services Allocations to the Urban Municipalities Cost-Sharing Formula

Weighting	Factor	Details & Information
100%	Equalized Assessment (excluding linear)	<p>Compares the Equalized Assessment or Actual District Assessment between the Fire Protection District and the relating town/villages within the district. Linear Assessment is excluded from these calculations. This creates a percentage of urban/rural assessment compared to the total assessment within the Fire Protection District.</p> <p>The most recent/applicable Equalized Assessment or District Assessment shall be used and may be updated once the updated data is available (should the change be significant).</p>

A4 - Vulcan County Regional Emergency Management Plan (VCREMP) Cost-Sharing Formula

Weighting	Factor	Details & Information
100%	Equalized Assessment (excluding linear)	<p>Compares the Equalized Assessment or Actual District Assessment between the County and the relating town/villages within the district. Linear Assessment is excluded from these calculations. This creates a percentage of assessment compared to the total assessment within each of the municipalities.</p> <p>The most recent/applicable Equalized Assessment or District Assessment shall be used and may be updated once the updated data is available (should the change be significant).</p>