

Vehicle For Hire Commission

Introduction

The Edmonton Vehicle for Hire Commission ensures the safe and orderly provision of vehicle for hire services in Edmonton by providing advisory and liaison services to Council, the industry and the public. Our **mission** is to govern the industry, including vehicles, drivers and business operations in a fair and equitable manner to promote a safe and respected industry.

Administration provides services to the industry through driver and vehicle licencing, driver screening, vehicle inspections and enforcement activities.

Public involvement engages industry stakeholders and the public to provide input on issues.



MAJOR SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Vehicle For Hire Governance

Council advisory services

Industry stakeholder engagement

Vehicle For Hire Regulation

Driver, vehicle and broker licencing

Enforcement and other remedial activities

Summary and Highlights of 2012 Budget

The Vehicle for Hire Commission and City Administration pride themselves with staying current on best practice methods, procedures and technology from jurisdictions throughout North America. The Commission will continue to engage industry stakeholders in all matters that are aimed at maintaining a high standard of vehicle for hire service in Edmonton. Highlights of the 2012 budget include:

1. Changing taxi, limousine and shuttle driver licence terms from one year to two years. The benefits include reduced costs for drivers as they would only need to pay for a police security clearance and driver's abstract every two years. The benefit to the City is that between 2,000 and 2,500 visits to the licencing office would be eliminated. The driver licence fee could be doubled to ensure that revenues would not be lost.
2. Working in cooperation with the City of Calgary and Alberta Transportation to modify provincial and municipal regulation as required to enable the municipal regulation of shuttle bus services being provided by vehicles that have a seating capacity greater than ten (10) persons. This will result in a fairer environment between all vehicle formats within the vehicle for hire industry in Edmonton.
3. Creating a new process for the renewal of vehicle licences. All vehicle licences expire on April 30, thereby creating a rush of activity. The administrative burden can be reduced with new processes. This will also benefit the industry in creating an easier and more responsive way to renew the vehicle licences.

Vehicle For Hire Commission

Opportunities and Challenges

The following are significant opportunities and challenges facing the Vehicle for Hire Commission in the immediate and medium term. These opportunities and challenges are identified through internal and external environmental scans, often have impacts beyond one year and may or may not have direct budget implications for 2012.

- 1) Reduce carbon dioxide emissions by creating a maximum age limitation for all vehicles for hire. This is an ongoing initiative with a ten year window.
- 2) Define various types of limousines and re-examine a previous decision about the make, model and year requirements for sedan limousines. The review will continue and bylaw amendments may be required.
- 3) Review effectiveness of the mandatory safety shield and look at other forms of safety devices that may further protect drivers, such as security cameras. If required, a public involvement session will be planned upon completion of the review and other safety devices may also be pursued.
- 4) In the medium term, work with the Edmonton International Airport Authority (EIA) on common issues, such as rates between the airport and the City. Work is ongoing and will be critical after EIA awards their taxi service contract in 2012.

5) There is an increasing demand on the vehicle for hire enforcement officer's time. A significant portion of time was spent in the office on administrative matters rather than on road enforcement. The review and implementation of new processes that alleviate this administration burden will be completed in 2012.

Increasing driver and passenger safety remains a high priority for the Vehicle for Hire Commission in 2012. The Commission sets policies governing public and driver safety and administration works to introduce new processes and best practices to promote a safe environment for all. Public involvement engages the industry and the public to provide input into the issues.

The Vehicle for Hire Commission works with the City to achieve City wide goals, such as reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Working with regional entities and other municipalities fosters a collaborative solution to common issues, thereby creating win-win solutions for the industry, the City and the public.

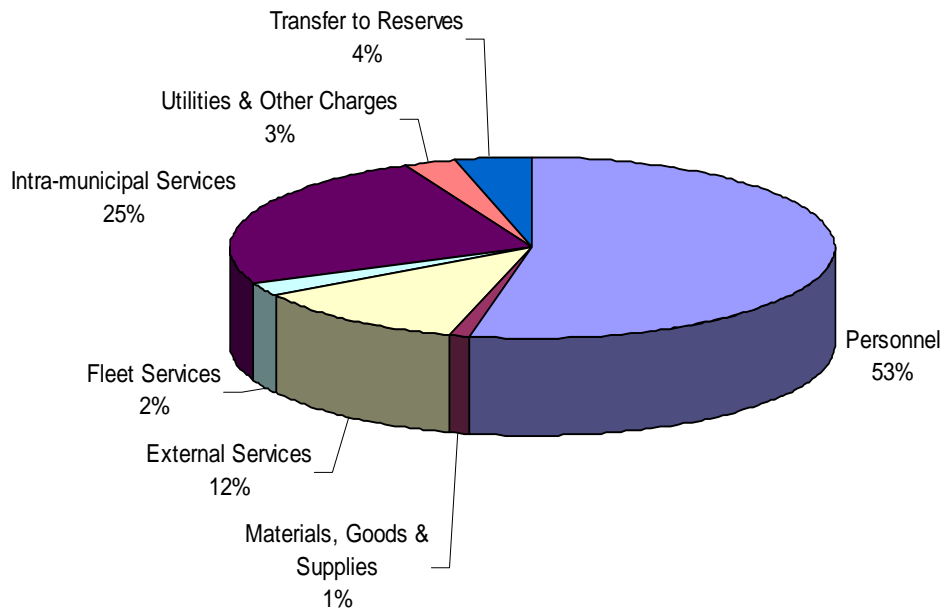


Vehicle For Hire Commission

Approved 2012 Budget (\$000)

	2010 Actual	2011 Budget	\$ Change '11-'12	2012 Budget	% Change '11-'12
Revenue & Transfers					
Licence Fees	\$ 725	\$ 766	\$ 38	\$ 804	5.0
Transfer from Reserves	30	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue & Transfers	755	766	38	804	5.0
Expenditure & Transfers					
Personnel	415	434	(6)	428	(1.4)
Materials, Goods & Supplies	6	10	-	10	-
External Services	75	90	4	94	4.4
Fleet Services	28	18	1	19	5.6
Intra-municipal Services	206	192	5	197	2.6
Utilities & Other Charges	18	22	-	22	-
Transfer to Reserves	7	-	34	34	-
Total Expenditure & Transfers	755	766	38	804	5.0
Net Operating Requirement	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Full-time Equivalent	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	

Where the Budget will be spent



Vehicle For Hire Commission

Budget Changes for 2012 (\$000)

Revenue & Transfers - Changes

Licence Fees \$38

Rate increases of 5% on all Vehicle for Hire Commission fees.

Expenditures & Transfers - Changes

Personnel (\$6)

Movement within the salary ranges to reflect salary requirements, changes in benefits and the last year of a 3-year LAPP contribution increase account for the decrease of \$(6).

External Services \$4

This increase relates to inflation at \$4.

Fleet Services \$1

An increase of \$1 in Fleet Services is attributed to inflation and rate increases.

Intra-municipal Services \$5

This increase relates to inflation at \$5.

Transfer to Reserves \$34

Transfer to Vehicle for Hire Commission Retained Earnings to compensate for 2010 deficit.

Approved 2012 Budget - User Fee Information

The approved 2012 budget includes a 5% increase on Vehicle For Hire licence fees. This increase is necessary to cover cost increases and the operating shortfall in 2010.

Bylaws Requiring Approval

Vehicle For Hire fees are contained in Schedule B of Bylaw 14700 - Vehicle for Hire Bylaw.