

**THE CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH CARDINAL**

BY-LAW NO. 2026-14

**“A BY-LAW TO AMEND BYLAW 2019-63 TO ESTABLISH RULES FOR
REIMBURSEMENT OF ELIGIBLE EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AND
MUNICIPAL STAFF”**

WHEREAS Section 283(1) and (2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, SO 2001, c. 25 as amended provides that a municipality may pay any part of the remuneration and expenses of the officers and employees of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal deems it desirable to amend said by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Edwardsburgh Cardinal enacts as follows:

1. That the Council Reimbursement of Expenses Policy, as described in Schedule “A” is hereby deleted and replaces with the amended Schedule “A” attached hereto.
2. That the amended Schedule “A” shall be hereby adopted and shall form part of this bylaw.
3. That Bylaw 2020-12 and all other bylaws previously passed that are inconsistent with the provisions of this bylaw are hereby repealed.
3. That all other provisions of Bylaw 2019-63 shall remain in force and effect.
4. That this bylaw shall come into force and take effect on the date of passing.

Read a first and second time in open Council this 30 day of March, 2026.

Read a third and final time, passed, signed and sealed in open Council this 30 day of March, 2026.



Tory Deschamps (Apr 2, 2026 12:17:24 EDT)

Mayor



Clerk

**SCHEDULE A
TO BY-LAW 2026-14
COUNCIL EXPENSES**

1. Purpose:

To establish a policy by which members of Council are compensated for eligible expenses incurred in the course of Township business.

2. Scope:

Schedule A of the policy applies to members of Council.

3. Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of each Council member to ensure compliance with this policy.

4. Insurance:

Council members shall be provided insurance while on duty, including errors and omissions insurance as per the terms and conditions specified in the Township’s insurance policy, as amended from time to time.

5. Council Remuneration:

As per Council Resolution 2024-305, an annual remuneration shall be paid to each member of Council:

Mayor	\$30,406.00 per annum
Deputy Mayor	\$19,073.00 per annum
Councillors	\$16,124.00 per annum

Such remuneration shall be paid monthly on the 1st payroll of each month. Cost of living increase shall be applied to the honourarium based on the OMERS pension annual inflation increase. In the event of the death of a Council member or upon his/her ceasing to be a member of Council for any reason before the expiration of his/her term of office, the amount payable to him/her or their personal representative, shall be in proportion to the period of his/her service during such time.

6. Group Insurance

The Corporation will pay premiums for Council group insurance benefits as stated below subject to periodic plan revisions:

- i) Councillor Life Insurance - \$10,000.00
- ii) Dependent Life Insurance – Spouse \$5,000.00, Child \$2,500.00
- iii) Accidental Death & Dismemberment - \$10,000.00
- iv) Extended Health Care – Deductible \$0, eligible expenses reimbursed 100% subject to basic expense coverage.
- v) Dental – 100% current year fee schedule, maximum \$1,500.00 per person for basic coverage.

7. Expenses:

- a. Each Council member shall be provided with an Expense Account in the following amounts:

Mayor	\$5,000.00
Deputy Mayor	\$4,000.00
Councillors	\$3,500.00

The following areas may be covered within the Council Member’s expense account:

- i) Eligible expenses for conferences, Township meetings, seminars, and related business shall include registration, transportation,

mileage, accommodate and meals, if not already included in the registration fee.

- ii) Transportation costs for members of Council shall be based on the most economical fare. Transportation options may include but are not limited to:

- Rail
- Air
- Rental car
- Use of Township fleet vehicle when practical
- Use of personal vehicle

iii)

As per Council Resolution 2024-128 the Township's mileage rate for the use of personal vehicles is set in accordance with the rate which is approved annually through the Government of Canada.

- iv) Parking, taxi, toll highway charges and public transportation fees are eligible for reimbursement upon provision of a supporting receipt.

- v) If an overnight stay is required in connection with attending a function, accommodation may be reimbursed at a rate in accordance with the room rates charged for the function, or at the hotel's rate for a standard room, whichever is less. An original receipt from the hotel, showing the dates of the stay and detailing all expenses must be provided. Charges for parking and internet access may be reimbursed. Credit or debit card receipts or statements are not acceptable as receipts.

- vi) Meals not provided as part of the conference, meeting or seminar fee are eligible for reimbursement to a daily cumulative maximum of \$90.00 with supporting original receipts but shall not include the purchase of alcohol. Expenses in excess of the \$90.00 per day must be supported by receipts and require the approval of the Mayor for members of Council. The per day meal allowance will be provided on a once per 24 hour period basis and shall be pro-rated by 50% if the travel starts after or concludes before noon. Spouses may accompany a member of Council providing any additional expenses are paid for by the member.

- vii) Entertainment expenses are not eligible for reimbursement.

- viii) All expenses shall be reimbursed upon submission of a completed and signed Expense claim form accompanied by original invoices, vouchers, or receipts. Credit Card slips or statements, or Interac payment slips are not acceptable as receipts. The form shall be submitted within a reasonable time after the conference or seminar or by the 15th of each month in order to be included in the monthly council cheque run.

- b. Council members shall submit/present to the Committee of the Whole a post-conference written or verbal report outlining the highlights of the sessions they attended.
- c. Members of Council shall be provided with a Township email address, to be used for all Township related business. The cost of this service will be included in the IT budget for Council.
- d. Members of Council shall be provided with a mobile device/tablet/laptop once at the start of the Council term for their use on Township related business. Alternatively, the Township may provide each Member of Council with an allowance of up to \$1,000 for a mobile

device/tablet/laptop, upon providing a copy of a receipt. At the end of the term of Council, for members not returning, all Township related information shall be removed from the device, and the device may be purchased by the member for his/her personal use for a nominal sum.

- e. Members of Council who do not wish to use a mobile device/tablet/laptop may expense other office supplies to the maximum equivalent expenditure of \$1,000 over the term. Receipts must be provided.

8. Township Issued Cell Phone:

- a. Members of Council shall have the option of being provided with a Township issued cell phone, as per the Township's corporate phone plan and policy for the conduct of Township related business activities of the Corporation, the cost and maintenance of which will be funded from the Council budget.
- b. Township cell phones must be used primarily for business use. Occasional or incidental personal use of IT Resources is permitted within reasonable limits, provided it does not conflict with business use of time, or on technology resources or otherwise adversely affect a Member of Council's duties and responsibilities. Members of Council are responsible for exercising good judgment regarding the reasonableness of personal use. It is the Member of Council's responsibility to reimburse any extra costs such as personal long-distance charges. For compliance with CRA regarding personal use of cell phones, a taxable benefit of \$10 will be added to each Member of Council's monthly pay and included on their T4.

9. Cell Phone Allowance or Reimbursement:

- a. The Township recognizes that, due to the nature of Council Member positions, it may be more cost-effective and give more flexibility to provide Members of Council a cell phone allowance in exchange for use of their personal cellular device, in lieu of providing the Member with a Township-owned cell phone.
- b. Cell Phone Reimbursement:
 - i. Any Member of Council using a personal cell phone for Township business may submit an expense sheet and be reimbursed for any costs associated with such use provided that proper back up documentation is attached in the form of detailed billing. The cost of reimbursement shall not exceed the cost of established plans (\$30) for Township owned equipment, in which case other arrangements shall be made.
 - ii. This reimbursement is not considered to be part of the annual expense amount and will be funded by the overall council budget under telephone.
- c. Cell Phone Allowance Amount:
 - i. The standard monthly cell phone allowance shall be \$30.00
 - ii. The monthly cell phone allowance may be adjusted to compensate any Member of Council whose necessary use of a personal cell phone for Township business justifies a greater need for personal cell phone plan minutes. This is conditional on the recommendation of the CAO and final approval of the majority of Council.
 - iii. Members of Council who receive a cell phone allowance are not eligible for reimbursement of further cell phone costs.
- d. Payment of Cell Phone Allowance:

- i. Members of Council cell phone allowance will be paid monthly as part of their paycheck and will be subject to all applicable payroll taxes as per CRA rules as it is considered a taxable benefit.
 - ii. This allowance does not constitute an increase to base honourarium pay, and will not be included in the calculation of percentage increases to base honourarium pay, cost of living increase, etc.
- e. Members of Council receiving a cell phone allowance must retain an active cell phone contract for their personal cell phone at all times while receiving a cell phone allowance.
- f. Members of Council receiving a cell phone allowance must provide the CAO and Clerk with their current cell phone number and immediately notify the CAO if the number changes.
- g. If a Member of Council receiving a cell phone allowance changes their personal cell phone contract, or if the Township terminates the cell phone allowance for any reason, the Member of Council will bear the cost of any fees associated with said changes or cancellation of the personal cell phone contract.
- h. Publication of Cell Phone Numbers:
 - i. Members of Council receiving a cell phone allowance shall have their cell phone numbers published as a matter of public record to the Township's website.

10. Reports:

- a. Each year by March 31st, the Treasurer shall provide Council with an itemized statement of Council remuneration and expenses for the prior year as legislated in Section 284 of *The Municipal Act, 2001*. This report will include any person appointed by council to serve as a member of any body, including a local board. This report will be posted on the Township website.
- b. A standardized expense report will be provided by the Treasurer to the Committee of the Whole on a quarterly basis for their review which shall include separate columns tracking conference expenses, mileage, professional development and other expenses. This report will be updated on the Township website.

11. Policy Review:

This policy shall be reviewed in the first year of each term of Council.

2026-14 Council Expense Policy Amendment Bylaw

Final Audit Report

2026-04-02

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