

**Town of Lanigan
Bylaw No. 12/2025**

A BYLAW OF FOR THE AUTHORIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLES
FOR THE PURPOSES OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE BY FIRE FIGHTERS.

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 238 of *The Traffic Safety Act* a municipality may designate private vehicles as emergency vehicles for the purpose of emergency response by fire fighters and,

WHEREAS it is deemed advisable to grant such designation for the purpose of improving the provision of fire suppression and emergency services and increasing the safety of emergency responders and of the public;

THE COUNCIL OF TOWN OF LANIGAN ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

SHORT TITLE

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Emergency Response Bylaw."

INTERPRETATION

2. In this bylaw:

- a. **approval** means the written approval of the Fire Chief;
- b. **designation** means the authorization granted by Town of Lanigan to selected members of the Fire Department to operate their private vehicles as emergency vehicles in accordance with the provisions of this bylaw;
- c. **emergency** means any situation when lives and property are at risk, or likely to become at risk, from the unexpected or uncontrolled occurrence of fire, explosion, release of hazardous materials, environmental extremes or any other occurrence or situation dangerous to life and public safety and any situation designated by the Fire Chief as an emergency;
- d. **emergency response** means the safe operation of vehicles, while using emergency warning devices, while being driven to a Fire Department facility or to the location of an emergency as directed by the Fire Chief;
- e. **emergency warning devices** means the visible and auditory warning equipment installed on vehicle in accordance with the provisions of the *Traffic Safety Act*, as amended and revised from time to time;
- f. **emergency vehicle** means any vehicle complying with the requirements of the *Traffic Safety Act*, as amended and revised from time to time, to be designated as an emergency vehicle;
- g. **Fire Chief** means the Fire Department member appointed by Council as the head of the Fire Department and includes:
 - i. in the Fire Chief's absence, the Deputy Fire Chief,
 - ii. any member of the Department appointed by the Fire Chief to temporarily act on his/her behalf,
 - iii. or any other person appointed by Council;
- h. **inspection mechanic** means a holder of an Inspection Mechanic Certificate in accordance with the provisions of *The Vehicle Inspection Procedures Regulations, 2007*, as amended and revised from time to time;
- i. **service area** means:
 - i. the geographical area served directly by the Fire Department,
 - ii. any area served as part of a Mutual Aid Agreement,
 - iii. any area served as part of a Fire Protection Agreement;
- j. **Standard Operating Procedures** means the set of procedures and policies governing the operation of the Fire Department as required by the provisions of *The Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, 1996* as amended and revised from time to time and
- k. **member** means any person appointed by the Fire Chief as a member in good standing of the Fire Department.



ADMINISTRATION OF BYLAW

3. The provisions of this bylaw shall be administered by the Fire Chief.

RECORD KEEPING

4. The Fire Chief shall securely maintain all records, forms and documentation required by the provisions of this bylaw.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIABILITY

5. A Liability Acknowledgement Form included as Schedule A, attached to and forming a part of this bylaw, shall be issued to each Fire Department member designated to operate their personal vehicle as an emergency vehicle.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION

6. To be eligible to be designated to operate their personal vehicle as an emergency vehicle a Fire Department member shall:
 - a. be a member in good standing of the Fire Department and,
 - b. hold a current certification in Civilian Emergency Vehicle Operation from the Saskatchewan Office of the Fire Commissioner and,
 - c. possess a current valid Saskatchewan driver's license.

GRANTING DESIGNATION

7. The Fire Chief may grant designation to operate a personal vehicle as an emergency vehicle to eligible fire department members.

WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION

8. (1) The Fire Chief may withdraw designation at any time, without cause.
- (2) The Fire Chief shall withdraw designation when a member:
 - a. has had their driver's license suspended for any reason, or
 - b. in the opinion of the Fire Chief, operates their vehicle in an unsafe manner during an emergency response, or
 - c. uses emergency warning devices at anytime other than during an authorized emergency response, or
 - d. uses emergency warning devices in a manner contrary to the Standard Operating Procedures of the Fire Department, or
 - e. uses emergency warning devices outside the service area of the Fire Department.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

9. To be eligible to be used as an emergency vehicle within the provisions of this bylaw a personal vehicle shall:
 - a. be currently licensed in the Province of Saskatchewan as a Light Vehicle, and
 - b. have passed within the previous 12 months a Light Vehicle (Mechanical) Safety Inspection conducted by a by an inspection mechanic in accordance with *The Vehicle Inspection Procedures Regulations, 2007*.

PROOF OF MECHANICAL SAFETY

10. Each designated member of the Fire Department shall provide to the Fire Chief a current Light Vehicle (Mechanical) Safety Inspection report for the personal vehicle used for emergency response: a. at the time designation is granted and once every 12 months thereafter and,
 - b. after repair of a mechanical defect as the result of a collision or other mishap, or
 - c. at any other time as requested by the Fire Chief.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATOR

11. A vehicle operated as an emergency vehicle under the provisions of this bylaw may only be driven by a designated member of the Fire Department who is the registered owner of the vehicle or:
- a. who has permission of the registered owner for use of the vehicle in emergency response and,
 - b. has submitted documentation to the satisfaction of the Fire Chief detailing the terms of any such permission.

VEHICLE OCCUPANCY

12. A designated vehicle, while being operated as an emergency vehicle, shall carry no passengers except members of the Fire Department.

USE OF EMERGENCY WARNING DEVICES

13. The use of emergency warning devices by designated members of the Fire Department shall be in accordance:
- a. with the provisions of the *Traffic Safety Act*, and
 - b. with Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures.





Mayor



Chief Administrative Officer

Read a first time this 18TH day of August, 2025.
Read a second time this 18TH day of August, 2025.
Read a third time and adopted this 18TH day of August, 2025.

Bylaw No. 12/2025 - Schedule A

This Schedule forms a part of the Emergency Response Bylaw 224-16.

The Town of Lanigan having designated the vehicle noted below as an emergency vehicle, as detailed in this bylaw, acknowledges liability for the vehicle and for operation of the vehicle during emergency responses. The vehicle listed below must be equipped and operated in accordance with the provisions of the *Traffic Safety Act* governing emergency vehicles, the Standard Operating Procedures of the Fire Department and with the provisions of this bylaw.

Failure by a member of the fire department to meet the conditions set out in this Schedule and the Emergency Response Bylaw 12/2025 frees the Town of Lanigan from any liability.

Member Name: _____ First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address: _____ Mailing Address _____ Postal Code: _____

Vehicle Information _____ Make _____ Model _____ Year _____ Colour _____
Must be licensed as a Private Vehicle or a Light Vehicle

Vehicle Identification _____ VIN/Serial Number _____ PIC Number _____ Found on Vehicle Registration _____

Date of last Light Vehicle Mechanical Safety Inspection: _____ Required Annually _____

This vehicle has been maintained in a safe operating condition during the interval since the date of the most recent Light Vehicle Mechanical Safety Inspection

Signature of Member _____ Date Signed _____

The Town of Lanigan accepts liability for this member and vehicle while operated as an emergency vehicle in compliance with the Emergency Response Bylaw 224-16.

Signature of Fire Chief or Administrator _____ Date Signed _____

Instructions: The original is issued to the Department member. A copy is to be retained by the Fire Department.

 

Notes for Emergency Response Bylaw

The Emergency Response Bylaw has been drafted with two purposes in mind. The first is to meet the Municipality's obligations under the *Traffic Safety Act* to enact a bylaw allowing for the designation of the personal vehicles of fire department members as emergency vehicles. The second purpose is to establish a system to administer the provisions of the bylaw.

This is a suggested bylaw. The municipality may want to add additional sections or make other changes. Municipalities should consider seeking legal advice before adopting this draft bylaw.

INTERPRETATION

This section contains required definitions of specific terms used in the bylaw and must be included.

ADMINISTRATION OF BYLAW

Appointing the Fire Chief to administer the provisions of the bylaw has several advantages, particularly when it comes to designating fire department members to use emergency warning devices. As the membership changes, with fire fighters leaving or joining the Department, the changes can be accommodated without Council having to pass resolutions or amend the bylaw.

RECORD KEEPING

If the Fire Chief is administering the program it makes sense for him/her to keep the records.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LIABILITY

When a fire fighter uses emergency lights and siren the registration status of their vehicle changes from a private vehicle to an emergency vehicle. When operating as an emergency vehicle the owner's ordinary insurance is suspended. In essence the fire fighter's vehicle, during emergency response, has the same status as a fire truck. The municipality carries liability for all emergency vehicles they operate. Schedule A provides a form for documenting fire fighters have been informed the municipality acknowledges this obligation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION

Under the provisions of the *Traffic Safety Act* a fire fighter must have completed a recognized emergency vehicle operator's class. The Office of the Fire Commissioner provides the only recognized course. As a matter of protection for the municipality a requirement to hold a valid drivers license is included.

GRANTING DESIGNATION

This section allows the Fire Chief to grant designation to selected members. There is no provision requiring the Chief to designate a member.

WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATION

The Fire Chief may withdraw designation at anytime. It is strongly suggested that the Department develop a set of Standard Operating Procedures that details the process for granting and withdrawing designation. The other provisions of this section are mandatory. This section also obligates the Fire Chief to remove designation for a broad range of safety violations.

VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

The *Traffic Safety Act* does not require mechanical safety inspections of private vehicles which will be operated as emergency vehicles. The requirements for safety inspections are added to the draft bylaw as a protection for the municipality. Fire fighters taking driver training from the Office of the Fire Commissioner must produce proof of mechanical safety before they can use their vehicles for practical driving exercises. Only vehicles classed as Light Vehicles (formally known as Personal Vehicles) may be designated for use as emergency vehicles.

PROOF OF MECHANICAL SAFETY

The only acceptable proof of mechanical safety is a report from a mechanic authorized by SGI to do inspections. To ensure vehicles are maintained in safe operating condition inspections are required every 12 months or after major repairs following a collision or other serious damage.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATOR

Only members of the fire department who have successfully completed an emergency vehicle operator's course can operate a vehicle using lights and siren. The provision allowing a qualified fire fighter to drive a vehicle they do not own is intended to cover a situation when the vehicle is owned by a spouse, partner or close family member.

VEHICLE OCCUPANCY

The provisions of *The Fire Prevention Act, 1992* providing protections against certain liabilities covers only members of the fire department and municipal officials. Transporting people who are not

members of the Department during an emergency response is both unsafe and too great a liability risk.

USE OF EMERGENCY WARNING DEVICES

This section may be used to place restrictions on when and where the use of emergency warning devices may be used. There is an advantage to putting any restrictions on the use of warning devices in the Department's Standard Operating Procedures. That way changes can be made without having to amend the bylaw.

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