



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

March 23, 2026

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Jenna Ricard, Solicitor/Litigator
DEPARTMENT: Legal Department
RE: Increase of Parking Set Fines

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council regarding the \$10 increase of parking set fines in the City of Sault Ste. Marie.

Background

During the 2025 Budget Meeting conducted on December 8, 2025 Council passed the following resolution:

Be It Resolved that the Corporation of the City of Sault Ste. Marie increase all parking fines by \$10.00 effective in the 2026 fiscal year or as soon as possible.

Analysis

Parking infractions occur when an enforcement officer issues a Certificate of Parking Infraction (parking ticket) to a motor vehicle for parking in contravention of a municipal by-law regulating parking offences within the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Parking infractions are administered under Part II of the *Provincial Offences Act* R. S. O. 1990 c. P. 33.

Within the City of Sault Ste. Marie, several by-laws regulate parking-related offences including:

- By-law 69-80 – a by-law to regulate the parking of vehicles on lands or buildings operated by the Parking Division of the City of Sault Ste. Marie as parking lots on which no charge is made to the public for parking of vehicles;
- By-law 77-200 – a by-law to regulate traffic and parking;
- By-law 4001 – a by-law to prohibit unauthorized parking of motor vehicles on private property;
- By-law 2008-26 – a by-law to authorize the provision of certain designated parking spaces for the sole use of vehicles operated by or conveying persons with a disability; and,
- By-law 2013-105 – a by-law to designate certain roadways as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted.

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While the City has the authority to regulate parking offences through municipal by-laws, the set fine amounts associated with parking offences must be approved by the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice prior to implementation to ensure the fines are appropriate, proportionate, and consistent with the administration of the *Provincial Offences Act*. The Regional Senior Justice exercises delegated authority by the Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice to approve set fines and this is stated in Section 36(2) of the *Courts of Justice Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 43. A set fine is the amount of fine that is set and established by a judicial order for an offence administered under Part I or Part II of the *Provincial Offences Act*. The maximum set fine available for Part II offences (parking) is \$500.

In January 2026, the City submitted certified copies of the applicable parking by-laws and updated set fine schedules to the Ministry of Attorney General, Crown Law Office – Criminal (MAG) reflecting the \$10 increase requested by Council. The increase was requested for both the early voluntary payment option payable within seven days and the set fine, as the early voluntary payment amount cannot be less than two-thirds of the set fine. The City's Legal Department has received confirmation from MAG and the Office of the Regional Senior Justice that the \$10 increase for the parking set fines will be approved.

Some administrative and operational requirements are necessary to implement the increase, including updates to the Certificate of Parking Infraction (parking ticket) with a third-party vendor and the depletion of existing ticket stock. Also, advance notice to residents and visitors regarding the increase to parking set fines will be provided, which will include communication through the City's website, social media channels, and a media release. For these reasons, implementation of the increase will be deferred and implemented at the onset of 2027 budget deliberations.

Financial Implications

Implementation of revised set fines will require the City to update and procure new Certificates of Parking Infraction through a third-party vendor that reflect the approved set fine amounts. The costs associated will be incurred as part of this process and will be accommodated within the appropriate operating budget.

Once implemented, the \$10 increase to parking set fines may result in an increase in annual parking fine revenue; however, the overall financial impact will depend on the number of parking infractions issued and subsequently paid in any given year.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This is an operational matter that is not directly articulated in the Corporate Strategic Plan.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

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Resolved that the report of the Solicitor/Litigator dated March 23, 2026 concerning the increase of parking set fines be received as information.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenna Ricard

Solicitor/Litigator

705.759-5407

j.ricard@cityssm.on.ca