

A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF WESTLOCK, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, TO REGULATE THE SALE, STORAGE, AND DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE TOWN.

WHEREAS the *Municipal Government Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. M-26*, as amended, authorizes Council to pass bylaws for the safety, health, and welfare of people and the protection of people and property;

WHEREAS the *Safety Codes Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-1*, as amended, provides authority to municipalities to enforce the Alberta Fire Code, including regulations related to the storage, sale, handling, and discharge of fireworks;

WHEREAS the *Alberta Fire Code (National Fire Code, Alberta Edition)* sets out technical standards for the storage, sale, and discharge of fireworks and assigns certain enforcement responsibilities to municipalities;

WHEREAS Council recognizes that fireworks bylaws are not consistent across Alberta municipalities, and that the primary objective of this bylaw is to ensure public safety while balancing recreational enjoyment and support for local businesses;

WHEREAS the Town of Westlock cannot authorize the discharge of fireworks in another municipality, and no other municipality may authorize the purchase of fireworks within Westlock;

WHEREAS the intent of this bylaw is to ensure that fireworks are purchased and stored safely, in compliance with the *Alberta Fire Code* and related regulations, and that their discharge within the Town is prohibited except when conducted by licensed professionals under approved conditions.

NOW THEREFORE the Town of Westlock Council hereby enacts as follows:

SECTION 1 - SHORT TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as "The Fireworks Bylaw".

SECTION 2 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

In this Bylaw:

- a) "Alberta Fire Code" means the National Fire Code (Alberta Edition), as amended from time to time.
- b) "Bylaw Enforcement Officer" means any Person or entity appointed by the Town to do any act or perform any duties under this Bylaw and includes a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and a Community Peace Officer.
- c) "Consumer Fireworks" means fireworks classified as Family or Consumer Fireworks under the Alberta Fire Code and Natural Resources Canada classifications.
- d) "Council" means the Municipal Council of the Town of Westlock.

- e) "Display Fireworks" means fireworks intended for public display and requiring a licensed fireworks technician under the Alberta Fire Code.
- f) "Discharge" means to ignite, explode, fire, or otherwise cause fireworks to function.
- g) "Fire Chief" means the Fire Chief of the Town of Westlock or their designate.
- h) "Fireworks" means any explosive or pyrotechnic device regulated under the Alberta Fire Code.
- i) "Fireworks Sales Permit" means a permit issued by the Town of Westlock authorizing a Person or business to store and sell fireworks within the Town in compliance with this Bylaw, the Alberta Fire Code, and any conditions imposed by the Fire Chief or designate, including inspections, safety requirements, and record-keeping obligations.
- j) "Licensed Display Pyrotechnician" means a Person who has successfully completed a Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) approved training program and is authorized to plan, supervise, and conduct fireworks displays, including all aspects of site selection, public safety, storage, handling, and discharge of fireworks, in accordance with federal, provincial, and municipal regulations.
- k) "Permit to Discharge" means a written authorization issued by the Town of Westlock that allows a Person, organization, or licensed display pyrotechnician to conduct a fireworks display within the Town. The permit specifies the location, date, time, type of fireworks to be discharged, and any conditions or requirements that must be met in accordance with this Bylaw, the *Alberta Fire Code*, and any applicable insurance or safety regulations.
- l) "Person" means an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or organization.
- m) "Retailer" means a Person or business offering fireworks for sale within the Town of Westlock.
- n) "Town" means the Town of Westlock.

SECTION 3 – PROHIBITIONS

3.1 Discharge Prohibitions

No Person shall:

- a) Discharge or cause to be discharged any Consumer Fireworks within the corporate boundaries of the Town of Westlock;
- b) Discharge Fireworks on private property without the property owner's consent;
- c) Discharge fireworks on public property, including parks, roadways, and open spaces;
- d) Discharge fireworks in any manner that endangers Persons, property, or animals.

3.2 Sale and Storage Prohibitions

No Person shall:

- a) Store or sell fireworks without a valid Fireworks Sales Permit issued by the Fire Chief;
- b) Sell fireworks to any Person under the legal age or in contravention of the Alberta Fire Code;
- c) Store fireworks in any manner that violates the Alberta Fire Code;
- d) Sell fireworks without providing proper signage and safety warnings as required by this Bylaw.

SECTION 4 – DISPLAY FIREWORKS

4.1 Display Fireworks

Display Fireworks may be discharged within the Town only when:

- a) Conducted by a Licensed Display Pyrotechnician;
- b) Approved in writing by the Town, which shall include the issuance of a Permit to Discharge to the organization or individual hosting the event, or to the party who has engaged the licensed pyrotechnician to conduct the display; and
- c) Conducted in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code and all applicable permits and insurance requirements.

SECTION 5 – FIREWORKS SALES PERMIT

5.1 Permit Required

No Person shall sell, offer for sale, display for sale, or store fireworks within the Town unless a valid Fireworks Sales Permit has been issued by the Town.

5.2 Application

An applicant for a Fireworks Sales Permit shall submit an application in the form prescribed by the Town and provide all information required by the Fire Chief or designate.

5.3 Inspection and Code Compliance

Upon receipt of an application for a Fireworks Sales Permit:

- a) The Fire Chief or designate shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an inspection of the proposed premises where fireworks are to be stored, displayed, or sold;
- b) The inspection shall confirm that the occupancy, building, storage areas, and display areas comply with:
 - i. The Alberta Fire Code;
 - ii. The Alberta Building Code; and
 - iii. Any other applicable municipal, provincial, or federal enactment;

- c) Where the applicant is unable to demonstrate compliance with applicable fire, building, or safety requirements, the Fire Chief or designate may refuse to issue the Fireworks Sales Permit until such time as compliance is achieved to the satisfaction of the Town.

5.4 Authority to Approve or Deny

The Fire Chief or designate is authorized to evaluate all applications and may approve, approve with conditions, or deny a Fireworks Sales Permit based on:

- a) Compliance with this Bylaw;
- b) Compliance with the Alberta Fire Code;
- c) Compliance with applicable building and safety legislation; and
- d) Considerations of public safety.

5.5 Annual Permit

- a) A Fireworks Sales Permit shall be valid for the period specified on the permit and shall not extend beyond the calendar year in which it is issued unless otherwise specified by the Town.

5.6 Fees

- a) An applicant for a Fireworks Sales Permit shall pay the applicable fee as established in the Town's Fees and Rates Bylaw, as amended from time to time.
- b) The permit fee may include, but is not limited to:
 - i. Administrative processing of the application;
 - ii. Review of submitted documentation;
 - iii. Initial inspection of the premises;
 - iv. Follow-up inspection(s), where required; and
 - v. Issuance of the Fireworks Sales Permit.
- c) No Fireworks Sales Permit shall be issued until all applicable fees have been paid in full.

SECTION 6 – RETAILER OBLIGATIONS

6.1 A Retailer shall:

- a) Sell only fireworks approved under the Alberta Fire Code;
- b) Store fireworks in accordance with the Alberta Fire Code;
- c) Maintain accurate records of all fireworks received and sold, including type, quantity, and supplier information, for a minimum of 12 months;
- d) Make records available for inspection by the Fire Chief or designate upon request;

- e) Post signage clearly stating that Consumer Fireworks may not be discharged within the Town of Westlock;
- f) Verbally advise purchasers that:
 - i. Discharge is prohibited within the Town of Westlock; and
 - ii. The purchaser is responsible for complying with the laws of the municipality where fireworks will be discharged;
- g) Not be responsible for verifying or enforcing compliance with fireworks discharge requirements in any other municipality.

SECTION 7 – JURISDICTIONAL LIMITATIONS

- 7.1** Nothing in this Bylaw authorizes the discharge of fireworks in another municipality.
- 7.2** Authorization to discharge fireworks must be obtained from the municipality in which the discharge will occur.

SECTION 8 – FINES AND PENALTIES

- 8.1** A Person who is guilty of an offence is liable for a fine pursuant to Schedule "A", not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) or for the imprisonment of not more than six months for non-payment of a fine, as per the *Municipal Government Act*.
- 8.2** Without restricting the generality of Section 8.1, the fine amounts set out in Schedule "A" are established for use on Violation Tags and Violation Tickets, if a voluntary payment option is offered.
- 8.3** Each day a violation continues constitutes a separate offence.

SECTION 9 - VIOLATION TAGS

- 9.1** A Bylaw Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized to issue a Violation Tag to any Person who has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.
- 9.2** A Violation Tag may be issued:
 - a) Personally;
 - b) By leaving a copy at their last known address; or
 - c) By mailing a copy to such person at their last known address.
- 9.3** The Violation Tag shall be in a form approved by the CAO or their designate and shall include:
 - a) The name of the Person;
 - b) The date upon which the offence was committed;
 - c) The section number(s) of this Bylaw which were contravened;
 - d) The appropriate specified penalty or minimum fine for the offence as

prescribed in this Bylaw;

- e) The time within which the entire penalty must be paid to the Town; and
- f) That if payment is not received within the time permitted by such a Violation Tag, there will be an administrative surcharge of \$20.00, or 20% of the specified penalty, whichever amount is greater.

9.4 If payment is paid to the Town within the period of time permitted by any such Violation Tag, no Violation Ticket or Information will be issued or laid against the same offender for the same offence.

SECTION 10 - VIOLATION TICKETS

10.1 Where a Violation Tag has been issued and the specified penalty has not been paid within the period of time permitted, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer is authorized to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, C P-34, and all amendments thereto, or instead lay an Information pursuant to the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46, and all amendments thereto.

10.2 Without restricting Section 11.1 (a), a Bylaw Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized to issue a Violation Ticket pursuant to the *Provincial Offences Procedure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, C P-34, and all amendments thereto, or instead lay an Information pursuant to the *Criminal Code*, RSC 1985, c C-46, and all amendments thereto, to any Person who has contravened any provision of this Bylaw.

SECTION 11 – VOLUNTARY PAYMENT

11.1 A Person who commits an offence may submit the voluntary payment to the Court of Justice Court Clerk, on or before the initial appearance date indicated on the Violation Ticket, if:

- a) The Violation Ticket is issued with respect to the offence; and
- b) The Violation Ticket specifies the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence.

SECTION 12 – REPEAL

12.1 Bylaw No. 2010-17 and any amendments thereto, relating to Fireworks within the Town of Westlock, are hereby repealed in their entirety.

12.2 All actions, permits, approvals, or enforcement measures undertaken under the repealed bylaw remain valid to the extent that they do not conflict with this bylaw, unless specifically revoked or amended by the Town Council.

SECTION 13 – SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this Bylaw is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14 - EFFECTIVE DATE

This Bylaw comes into force on the date of third reading and signing.

READ a first time this 13th day of April, 2026

READ a second time this 13th day of April, 2026

Unanimous consent for third reading this 13th day of April, 2026

READ a third time this 13th day of April, 2026

Signed by Mayor and CAO this 14 day of April, 2026



Mayor Jon Kramer



CAO Simone Wiley

Schedule "A" OFFENCE PENALTIES

Section	Offence	1st Offence Fine	2nd Offence Fine	Subsequent Offences
3.1(a)	Discharge Consumer Fireworks within Town	\$250	\$500	\$2,000
3.1(b)	Discharge without landowner consent	\$250	\$500	\$1,500
3.1(c)	Discharge on public property	\$250	\$500	\$2,000
3.1(d)	Discharge endangering Persons, property, or animals	\$250	\$500	\$5,000
3.2(a)	Store or sell without Fireworks Sales Permit	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
3.2 (b)	Sell fireworks to any Person under the legal age	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
3.2(d)	Sell fireworks without required signage or warnings	\$250	\$500	\$1,200
4.1(a-c)	Discharge Display Fireworks without required Town approval / licensed supervisor	\$250	\$500	\$5,000
5.1	Sale/storage without valid Fireworks Sales Permit	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
6.1 (c)	Maintain accurate records of all fireworks received and sold	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
6.1 (d)	Make records available for inspection by the Fire Chief or designate upon request	\$250	\$500	\$2,500
6.1(e)	Failure to post required signage	\$250	\$500	\$1,000
6.1(f)	Failure to verbally advise purchasers	\$250	\$500	\$1,000