

VILLAGE OF VETERAN
BYLAW NO. 571-26
VETERAN CEMETERY BYLAW

A BYLAW OF THE VILLAGE OF VETERAN, IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA,
TO REGULATE AND CONTROL THE VETERAN CEMETERY.

WHEREAS the Village of Veteran is the owner and operator of the Veteran Cemetery located on NE ¼ 7-35-8-W4, also described as Plan 7204 BX;

AND WHEREAS Council considers it necessary to regulate the management, operation, maintenance and use of the Cemetery;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Veteran, duly assembled, enacts as follows:

PART 1: SHORT TITLE

1.1 This Bylaw may be cited as the “Veteran Cemetery Bylaw.”

PART 2: DEFINITIONS

2.1(a) “**Act**” means the Cemeteries Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. C-3, its regulations, and any successor legislation, as amended from time to time.

2.1(b) “**Ash Interment**” means the burial of cremated human remains in a Lot.

2.1(c) “**Burial**” means the placement of human remains or cremated human remains in the ground.

2.1(d) “**CAO**” means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village or the CAO’s designate.

2.1(e) “**Casket Interment**” means the burial of human remains in a casket and, where required, an outer burial receptacle.

2.1(f) “**Cemetery**” means the Veteran Cemetery located on NE 7-35-8-W4, Plan 7204 BX, and any additional lands lawfully designated by the Village for cemetery purposes.

2.1(g) “**Columbarium**” means a structure containing Niches for the placement of cremated human remains.

2.1(h) “**Council**” means the municipal council of the Village of Veteran.

2.1(i) “**Disinterment**” means the removal or relocation of interred human remains or cremated human remains.

2.1(j) “**Flat Marker**” means an approved rectangular, square or circular memorial of granite, marble, concrete or bronze installed level with, or very close to, the surrounding ground.

2.1(k) “**Funeral Director**” means a funeral director licensed to practise in Alberta.

2.1(l) “**Funeral Home**” means a business licensed or otherwise authorized to provide funeral services in Alberta.

2.1(m) “**Grave**” means a Lot that has been opened or used for an Interment.

2.1(n) “**Interment**” means the lawful placement of human remains or cremated human remains in a Grave or Niche.

2.1(o) “**Lot**” means one of six approximately equal burial parcels within a Plot, measuring approximately 8 feet by 5 feet 4 inches, and including the space required for an approved marker or monument.

2.1(p) “**Marker**” means a Flat Marker or any other approved memorial used to identify an Interment.

2.1(q) “**Monument**” means an approved memorial made of granite, marble, concrete, bronze or another durable material approved by the CAO.

2.1(r) “**Niche**” means a compartment in a Columbarium intended to hold one or more urns, as space permits and as approved by the Village.

- 2.1(s) “Owner”** means the person or estate recorded by the Village as holding the interment rights to a Lot, Plot or Niche.
- 2.1(t) “Pillow Monument”** means a low, rectangular or sloped Monument that projects above the surrounding ground.
- 2.1(u) “Plot”** means a parcel measuring approximately 16 feet by 16 feet and divided on the Cemetery plan into six approximately equal Lots.
- 2.1(v) “Reserve Lot”** means a Lot purchased and held for future Interment.
- 2.1(w) “Upright Monument”** means a traditional vertical headstone mounted on a base and concrete foundation.
- 2.1(x) “Village”** means the municipal corporation of the Village of Veteran.

PART 3: CEMETERY LAND AND ADMINISTRATION

- 3.1** The Cemetery is established and set apart solely for cemetery purposes.
- 3.2** The Cemetery shall be operated in accordance with this Bylaw, applicable Village policies, and the Act.
- 3.3** The CAO has charge and control of the Cemetery and may establish administrative procedures consistent with this Bylaw and the Act.
- 3.4** The Village shall maintain records of Plot, Lot and Niche sales and reservations, ownership or interment rights, Interments, Disinterments, and other records required by law.
- 3.5** All contracts for the provision of cemetery supplies or services, certificates of interment rights, Cemetery plans, registers and other required records shall comply with the Act and shall be prepared, issued, retained and made available as required by law.
- 3.6** The CAO may prescribe forms and require any applicant, Owner, Funeral Home, Funeral Director, monument installer or other person requesting a Cemetery service to provide information, authorization and supporting documentation reasonably necessary to administer this Bylaw and comply with the Act.
- 3.7** The Village may control the sequence and number of Lots or Niches made available for sale and may temporarily restrict access, work, Interments or installations due to weather, ground conditions, safety or operational requirements.
- 3.8** The Village may engage employees, contractors or a cemetery society to assist with maintenance and operations, but final authority under this Bylaw remains with the Village and the CAO.

PART 4: PURCHASE, RESERVATION AND TRANSFER

- 4.1** Fees for Plots, Lots, Niches and cemetery services are set out in Schedule “A”. Applicable taxes shall be added.
- 4.2** All purchase or reservation fees are payable at the time of purchase or reservation unless the CAO approves other arrangements in writing.
- 4.3** The purchase of a Plot, Lot or Niche grants only an interment right, subject to this Bylaw. Title to all Cemetery land remains with the Village.
- 4.4** No Owner may sell, trade, assign or transfer an interment right without the Village’s prior written approval and registration of the transfer in the Village’s records.
- 4.5** An Owner may surrender an unused reserved Plot, Lot or Niche to the Village. Any refund or repurchase shall be calculated in accordance with Schedule “A” or a Council-approved policy in effect when the surrender is accepted.
- 4.6** If a purchased Lot is unusable, the Village may provide a reasonably comparable Lot at no additional cost and the original Lot shall revert to the Village.
- 4.7** No person may subdivide, alter or reconfigure a Plot or Lot except in accordance with the Cemetery plan or with the CAO’s written approval.

PART 5: PLOT AND LOT CONFIGURATION AND CAPACITY

- 5.1** Each Plot measures approximately 16 feet by 16 feet and is divided into six approximately equal Lots arranged as two rows of three Lots.
- 5.2** Each Lot measures approximately 8 feet by 5 feet 4 inches. Measurements are approximate and are subject to the surveyed or recorded Cemetery plan, existing burials, monuments, access requirements and field conditions.
- 5.3** A Lot may contain either:
 - (a)** one Casket Interment; or
 - (b)** up to two Ash Interments.
- 5.4** Cremated remains shall not be interred above, on top of or within the occupied area of a Casket Interment. A Lot used for a Casket Interment shall not subsequently be used for an Ash Interment.
- 5.5** Each Ash Interment shall be identified by a rectangular, square Marker measuring between 10 and 15 inches on each side, or by a circular Marker measuring between 10 and 15 inches in diameter. The Marker shall be made of granite, marble, or bronze, placed directly above the recorded location of the urn and display at least one clearly legible initial identifying the deceased. The location of every urn shall be approved and recorded by the Village before the Grave is closed.
- 5.6** Where historical Lots or Plots were configured or used differently before this Bylaw came into force, the CAO may approve continued use only where records, available space, equipment access, safety and the Act permit it.

PART 6: INTERMENTS AND DISINTERMENTS

- 6.1** No Interment may occur until all permits required by law have been filed with the Village and all applicable fees have been paid or arrangements approved.
- 6.2** A request for Interment must be authorized by the Owner or by another person who is legally entitled to control the disposition of the deceased's remains. The Village may rely on the information and authorization provided unless it has actual notice of a dispute or a legal impediment.
- 6.3** The Village shall receive at least 48 hours' notice before an Interment, excluding weekends and statutory holidays, unless the CAO approves a shorter period because of exceptional circumstances.
- 6.4** The CAO has authority over the location and conduct of all Interments and cemetery work.
- 6.5** A Grave for a Casket Interment shall be excavated to a depth of not less than six (6) feet, measured from the surface of the surrounding ground to the bottom of the Grave. Every Interment shall comply with the *Cemeteries Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. C-3, the regulations made under that Act, and all other applicable laws, as amended or replaced from time to time. The Village may require an approved grave liner where the CAO determines that it is necessary for public safety, soil stability, cemetery maintenance or the prevention of ground settlement.
- 6.6** No Grave excavated for the burial of cremated remains shall be less than eighteen (18) inches in depth, measured from the surface of the surrounding ground.
 - 6.6.1** The standard urn opening provided by the Village is approximately 12 inches wide by 12 inches long by 18 inches deep.
 - 6.6.2** If an urn, urn vault or other cremation container requires an opening larger than the standard Village urn opening, the person arranging the Interment is responsible for arranging and paying all costs of the larger opening. The work must be completed by a person authorized by the CAO and in accordance with the location, depth and other requirements directed by the CAO.
- 6.7** The Funeral Home or Funeral Director responsible for an Interment shall close and backfill the casket Grave or urn burial site promptly after the Interment and shall place an approved temporary or permanent Marker identifying the deceased before leaving the Cemetery. The work shall be completed to the satisfaction of the CAO.

- 6.8** Every casket and any required outer burial receptacle shall be sourced, supplied and paid for by the person arranging the Casket Interment. The Village does not supply or pay for caskets or outer burial receptacles.
- 6.9** Only persons authorized by the CAO may open a Grave or urn burial site. Anyone proposing to use excavation equipment must first obtain the CAO's permission. The Funeral Director or person arranging an Interment shall provide accurate instructions regarding the required Grave size and location.
- 6.10** Surplus soil shall be placed where directed by the CAO and removed or otherwise dealt with within four days unless the CAO directs otherwise.
- 6.11** All work near a Grave shall stop during a burial service.
- 6.12** Interment may be refused in an area where records are insufficient to confirm ownership, location or occupancy, or where conditions make the Interment unsafe or impracticable.
- 6.13** Where the Village receives notice of a dispute concerning an interment right, an Interment, a Disinterment or the disposition of remains, the CAO may suspend the requested work until the parties provide written agreement, a court order or other evidence satisfactory to the CAO establishing the authority to proceed. The Village is not responsible for delay resulting from such a suspension.
- 6.14** The Village may restrict Grave openings from November 1 to April 30 or during freeze-up. Winter Interments may occur only with the CAO's approval and subject to any additional costs and conditions.
- 6.15** No Disinterment shall occur unless undertaken by a licensed Funeral Director and all permits, notices and approvals required by law have been obtained. The RCMP shall be notified where required by law.

PART 7: COLUMBARIUM

- 7.1** The CAO shall supervise all Niche sales and placements or removals of cremated remains.
- 7.2** Only the Village or a person authorized by the CAO may open or close a Niche.
- 7.3** A Niche may hold the number of urns that safely fit within it, to a maximum of two, unless the design specifications approved by the Village provide otherwise.
- 7.4** Plaques and inscriptions shall conform to Village specifications and shall be approved by the CAO at the Owner's cost.
- 7.5** Flowers or funeral designs may be placed at the base of the Columbarium for up to seven days after an Interment. Nothing may be permanently attached to a Niche door or placed on top of the Columbarium.

PART 8: MONUMENT AND MARKER REGULATIONS

- 8.1** No Monument, Marker, base, foundation or permanently attached vase may be installed without the CAO's prior approval of its material, dimensions, design and location.
- 8.2** Only professionally manufactured Monuments and Markers made of granite, marble, concrete, bronze or another durable material approved by the CAO are permitted. Glass, wood and other wooden materials are prohibited for permanent Grave markers, Monuments, bases, enclosures or memorial structures.

8.3 Upright Monuments

- 8.3.1** An Upright Monument shall not exceed 42 inches in width, 21 inches in depth and 30 inches in overall height, including the Monument, base and any permanently attached vase.
- 8.3.2** An Upright Monument and its base shall be firmly secured to an adequate concrete foundation installed level with the surrounding ground. The foundation shall extend at least six inches beyond the Monument on each side unless the CAO approves an engineered alternative.
- 8.3.3** Where one Upright Monument is intended to serve two adjoining Lots, the Monument and its foundation shall be centred on the common boundary between the two Lots and shall be approved by the CAO before installation.

8.4 Pillow Monuments

8.4.1 A Pillow Monument shall not exceed 42 inches in length, 30 inches in depth and 15 inches in height, measured from surrounding ground level to its highest point.

8.4.2 A Pillow Monument shall be firmly secured to an adequate concrete foundation installed level with the surrounding ground. The foundation shall extend at least six inches beyond the Monument on each side unless the CAO approves an engineered alternative.

8.5 Flat Markers

8.5.1 A Flat Marker shall not exceed 24 inches in width and 18 inches in depth and shall be installed level with, or very close to, the surrounding ground as directed by the CAO.

8.6 General Installation Requirements

8.6.1 A Monument or Marker shall be located wholly within the Lot and aligned with other memorials in the row, except for a shared Upright Monument installed in accordance with section 8.3.3. It shall not interfere with another Lot or with access required for Cemetery operations.

8.6.2 The installer shall provide the Village at least 48 hours' notice before installation. The CAO may require a Village representative to confirm the location before work begins.

8.6.3 Only one principal Monument is permitted per Lot, except for a shared Upright Monument approved under section 8.3.3 and the individual Ash Interment Markers required under section 5.5.

8.6.4 No Monument installation shall occur from November 1 to April 30 except with the CAO's written approval.

8.6.5 The installer shall restore the surrounding area to the condition it was in before installation.

8.6.6 The Owner is responsible for the repair and maintenance of all Monuments, Markers, bases and foundations associated with the Lot.

PART 9: DECORATIONS, LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

9.1 No fence, railing, rope, coping, curb, Grave cover, enclosure, earth mound, wooden box, glass or other structure is permitted on a Lot unless expressly authorized by this Bylaw or approved in writing by the CAO.

9.2 Existing Grave covers or other non-conforming structures may remain at the CAO's discretion but shall not be replaced or substantially rebuilt without written approval.

9.3 No trees, shrubs, vines, flowers, vegetables, garden plants or other vegetation may be planted or grown on a Lot. All planting and landscaping within the Cemetery are under the Village's control.

9.4 Cut flowers, artificial flowers, solar lights and ornaments are permitted only in moderation at or immediately beside the Monument or Marker. They must be durable, weather resistant and placed so they do not interfere with mowing, trimming, access or safety.

9.5 No decoration may be placed on the main body of a Grave. Funeral flowers and designs may remain for seven days after Interment, after which they may be removed.

9.6 The CAO may remove and dispose of, without compensation, any item, vegetation, decoration, Monument, Marker or structure that is unauthorized, unsafe, deteriorated, broken, windblown, unsightly, abandoned, non-compliant or interferes with Cemetery maintenance or access.

9.7 Where practicable, the Village shall provide written notice to the Owner at the Owner's last known address before removing a substantial Monument, Marker or structure, and the notice shall identify the item, the reason for proposed removal and a reasonable period for correction or retrieval. Immediate removal is permitted where the CAO considers an item unsafe or an operational obstruction.

PART 10: VEHICLES AND CONDUCT

- 10.1** Vehicles shall not exceed 10 km/h and shall remain on designated roadways unless authorized for Cemetery work.
- 10.2** The CAO may prohibit vehicle access when roads or grounds are unsuitable or where access would create a safety or maintenance concern.
- 10.3** The owner or operator of a vehicle is responsible for damage caused by that vehicle within the Cemetery.
- 10.4** No person shall damage, deface, remove or interfere with a Grave, Monument, Marker, Niche, structure, vegetation or other Cemetery property, or create a nuisance or disturbance in the Cemetery.

PART 11: ENFORCEMENT AND LIABILITY

- 11.1** The CAO and any Peace Officer may enforce this Bylaw and may direct a person who contravenes it to leave the Cemetery.
- 11.2** The Village may remove, relocate or require correction of any installation that was unauthorized, improperly located or does not comply with this Bylaw. The Owner is liable to the Village for the reasonable costs of removal, relocation, correction and restoration of the affected area.
- 11.3** The Village shall take reasonable care in operating and maintaining the Cemetery but is not liable for loss or damage caused by weather, natural events, ground movement, theft, vandalism, accident or other causes beyond the Village's reasonable control, except to the extent liability cannot lawfully be excluded.
- 11.4** A person who contravenes this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to any other penalty authorized by law.
- 11.5** A court may, in addition to any penalty, order a person to comply with this Bylaw. A penalty does not relieve a person from paying any fee, charge, repair cost or other amount owing under this Bylaw.
- 11.6** Where authorized by the Municipal Government Act and applicable provincial legislation, a Peace Officer may issue a violation ticket for an offence under this Bylaw. Council may establish specified penalties for offences by bylaw or amendment to this Bylaw.

PART 12: GENERAL

- 12.1** A notice or direction under this Bylaw may be served personally, by ordinary mail to the last address shown in the Village's records, or by any other method permitted by law. A notice sent by ordinary mail is deemed received seven days after mailing, unless the contrary is proved.
- 12.2** If any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, that provision shall be severed and the remainder of the Bylaw shall continue in force.
- 12.3** Any interment right, reservation, approval or authorization lawfully granted before this Bylaw comes into force continues according to its terms, subject to the Act and to any provisions of this Bylaw respecting safety, maintenance and Cemetery operations.
- 12.4** Bylaw No. 506-12 and all amendments to it are repealed when this Bylaw comes into force.

12.5 This Bylaw comes into force upon receiving third and final reading and being signed in accordance with section 213 of the Municipal Government Act.

Read a first time this 15th day of September 2026.

Read a second time this 15th day of September 2026.

Unanimous consent was given to consider third reading this 15th day of September 2026.

Read a third and final time this 15th day of September 2026.

Jerry Wipf
Mayor

Nichole Grocock
Chief Administrative Officer

SCHEDULE “A”

BYLAW NO. 571-26

Schedule of Fees and Charges

All fees are payable to the Village of Veteran. Applicable GST or other taxes shall be added.

Item	Description	Fee
Cemetery Plot	Approximately 16 ft × 16 ft; six approximately equal Lots	\$800.00 + tax
Cemetery Lot	Approximately 8 ft × 5 ft 4 in	\$150.00 + tax
Columbarium Niche	Where available	\$800.00 + tax
Standard Urn Opening	Village excavation approximately 12 in wide × 12 in long × 18 in deep; standard-size urns only	\$100.00 + tax
Additional service approved by the CAO	At cost	Actual cost plus applicable taxes