

## 2022 Business Licence Survey

### Question #16 Verbatim Comments

1. My business makes no money because of covid. The license is my single highest business expense. You all suck at your jobs.
2. I believe regulation is important. I wouldn't mind a small fee if there was more benefit as a business owner.
3. We used to live in the foothills and had to move away in order to continue operating our business. The foothills did not support us as business owners or as tenants. The Foothills County caused us thousands of dollars in court costs with our landlords due to red tape bureaucracy! It needs to be noted that the foothills requires landlords approval for home office business licenses. Whereas the city of Calgary and the Rockyview district do not require any approvals. This bureaucracy in the foothills gives landlords direct rights to interfere with independent business and the way people earn an income. We no longer support the Foothills County and we are vocal about our dealings with them.
4. This was not a good survey, one sided. Not accurate. It was suppose to be for residents and businesses in the county. The questions were specific to business owners only. Not residents to voice opinion of business.
5. I have more than one business in same location and pay two different fees. Perhaps this is unique situation, but it would be nice if there was a blended license, or maximum fee.
6. Get out of the way of small business, home based/farm based businesses, seasonal business... promote local small business by getting out of the way.

Times are tough and people need the flexibility and speed to re-invent themselves to earn a living and raise and support their families.(even more now with the idiotic carbon taxes, inflation etc. etc.)

Question 11 - should be tiered system. Larger, corporate business should not be handled, categorized, licensed in the same manner as mid/small small business etc. - by the survey looks like all businesses are treated equal/same.

A 9 month application and hearing process and then another 6 years to get a permanent business license is ludicrous, especially for small seasonal business!

Fellow small business owners operators outside of Foothills (and in towns in the Foothills) cannot believe what we had to go through for our business. Talking to AB Tourism reps in years gone by and other similar business all agree that the Foothills is highly bureaucratic.

7. I would like a review as to why a sole proprietor/small business operator I am not allowed to have an employee.
8. Yay Foothills!!
9. Your question to rank fees and requirements is difficult to answer. Licenses should be required for some but maybe not all types of businesses, depending on the impact on the community. For example, what about an independent on line programmer who works

from home, or a consultant who's office is at home but visits clients and has no traffic. I think a fee range of \$100 to 300 depending on the business is reasonable. The most important thing is that County Staff continue to work with Businesses to make it easy for them to follow the rules.

10. Re the ranking of your options: the only thing that makes sense is a reasonable fee, which I endorse, or nothing.

Having a Busn Lic is a user-pay privilege, and meant for the protection of the consumer. The County should not shy from this.

If a business can't afford \$100-300 per year, then they aren't a business that is worth concern to the County; if there is a need to license these micro businesses then follow CRA's GST lead >> if you have a GST number then you must be licenced; if you don't have a GST number then 'technically' your revenue is under \$30k, or you are cheating the system. If the former, then the business is likely too small to cost justify licencing; if the latter then the only way you will find them is if someone complains .... and then the County should fine AND blacklist them.

Great opportunity to give some input. Thank you.

11. Business licences should be a community building tool. At this time there is no universal enforcement of existing rules and most interaction between the County and businesses ad hoc and primarily driven by opportunities for targeted confrontations. On the other hand there is no universal tool to promote business licences or area businesses.
12. A regional business licence would be very beneficial.
13. I completely support mandatory business license to operator within Foothills County and I believe the Foothills should prosecute those who operate without them. Should be an equal playing field. Want to work in the county, pay your license fee and the penalties should be steep enough that businesses feel it by trying to cheat the system.
14. Business licenses should only be required for those who have a store front whether rural or Urban. Trades who live outside the county providing a service to county residences Keep local trades from gouging.
15. I've only been operating in the County of Foothills for 2 years therefore I'm fairly new and haven't explored the additional benefits of having a business licence in the County other than it currently being a mandatory requirement.
16. Having a business that operates outside of foothills county should not require a license simply because you live here.
17. I feel the county should have a business requirement in place to be able to monitor what is happening in the County. However it should not be for a cash grab or to impose undue regulations/paperwork or interfere with the operation of the business except where the business may not be in the best interest of the community.
18. The MD has been good to work with over the past few years.
19. I feel the Country should deal more locally with business with in the County.
20. I would love the Foothills to be the most pro-freedom, pro-innovation, pro-entrepreneur, pro-family county in the country. Let's grow that population here!

21. I'm not sure what the purpose of business licenses are for, so I don't really know why they required. I understand having a business license for a business that is physically located in a structure.
22. It would be great to have 1 business license that serves multiple areas.
23. The cost is hurting small business, Two better examples in my choice is: County Vulcan - pay once and covers all the area in county (rural and towns, villages) Second choice is MD Willow - get a license in any town and for 50\$ covers the whole MD I find the cost of MD and the cost per town is expensive and a detriment to doing work in the MD yet, I spend the dollars I make in the MD IN the MD.
24. I do not have a business license because what I do is a very small sideline and the cost of a license would be as much or more than my annual profit.
25. If you add one regulation to the County, please remove two others.
26. I don't believe a business license serves any purpose except as a revenue generator for the community. As a business owner it is an additional expense and not beneficial to the business or customer.
27. Okotoks business owners felt a little angry about the change sin the business licenses, it would be nice to have one for all of the towns that way it doesn't deter people from choosing one town versus another and makes it equal for all towns.
28. Eliminate them al together. We don't need the government control.
29. There are thousands of businesses in the county that don't have business licenses. Perhaps you have never heard of farms. If farmers don't need a business license to operate their businesses, any other business should also be exempt otherwise you are descriminating.
30. County's red tape is ridiculous compared to other municipalities. Your stuck in the old days.
31. I've had buisness licences in a number of jurisdictions, none have ever proven to be more than a simple tax. I've never seen any value associated with it.
32. There should be more flexibility for work from home operations. the business development application is expensive and a timely stressful experience.
33. -I would be very supportive of a single license that covers all municipalities in the  
-a flat rate of \$500 would be more than fair in my opinion
34. if there is a value in paying a fee, no one will mind, however how it is today, it is just another cash cow with no value
35. the last question is the most important to me. its crazy that I have to pay the md \$300, okotoks \$400 & High River \$300 and another for blackdiamond ETC.ETC I operate a heating company and my entire business is mobile so I need license in every municipality. For us, doing business in foothills county is more expensive that any other municipality in the province. we spend almost \$1500.00 just in licensing fees and receive very little in return. since many of my competitors do not bother to license their operations, and since the county does not enforce the bylaw, it really has no value

whatsoever. I welcome you review into this. please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

36. have all the farms got business lic, do all the horse boarding farms have busi lic and if not why not. seems only if someone complains? I really don't understand why not, as you see I have to.
37. Offices do not require business licences in Calgary, yet we require one outside of our own municipality - doesn't make much sense. We require it for the once or twice a year we have a projects in foothills
38. I agree the business license application + approval process and subsequent filing (accurately!)? has been way too complicated, convoluted, miscommunicated, misfiled, contradicted, and confusing leading to unfairness.
39. Perfect
40. Will the results of the survey be shared?
41. Get rid of the pointless fees and red tape to start businesses, they don't add value to the business or the people of the county. The goal is to bring businesses to our county not hurdles and extra taxes. Let's make it happen! Thank you for hearing the survey results.
42. Eliminate rules, and government jobs. And stop with the pointless make work issues,.. lazy people,... get a job!
43. I would be extremely pleased to see the end of the need for unnecessary business licenses. They, as well as the long drawn out processes related to them with the MD council, have caused significant stress and strain in my own personal life. They offer no actual gain to the business holder in anyway, and I would much prefer for our MD to finally cut some of the red tape and unnecessary processes that bog down our council and personal lives. I believe in letting hard working families and individuals do their thing, without having the meddling hand of the government always reaching into their pockets. Thank you. I am happy to see a survey of this manner being sent out.
44. Business License are primarily used to increase the taxes collected. The business license and the process to obtain or renew is just the thin edge of the wedge.
45. The best way for government to help Business' succeed is to get out of the way. Let the free market decide who succeeds and who fails. Trade show and directories sound like a good business idea for someone in the Foothills to start? Going forward you could help business by eliminating two regulations for every new regulation added
46. Business licenses should be different for different types of businesses based on west and tear or use if tax funded services. If they exist, they should be enforced. If they are not going to be blanket enforced, get rid of them.
47. I would like the information to be clear , as I thought business lic was no longer needed
48. As a county operated business i have had a license for over 20 years. Over this time i have recieved zero benefits of the license but the county has used it as an opportunity to penalize me. You use it as a weapon of control. Just eliminate the red tape, extra tax and let business do what they do best. I already pay over \$100,000 per year in taxes- isn't that enough for you guys.

49. Mandatory business licenses are just a form of government control. We already pay double the taxes as residents, is that not enough for you guys. If you want to attract business, remove red tape, get rid of mandatory licenses. Other municipalities have done it, why does foothills think they need to use business licenses as a weapon against us.