



BEYOND THE HORIZON

NEWS RELEASE

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Lacombe County moves forward with facility expansion

(Lacombe, Alberta) – Planning today for the needs of tomorrow, Council gave the green light to the proposed expansion of Lacombe County's Administration and Public Works Shop facilities at the March 27, 2008 Council meeting.

The expansion will bring an additional 14,981 square feet of space to the Administration office, which will include 26 offices, two meeting rooms, as well as an expanded main entrance and Council Chambers. The additional 3,888 square feet of space at the Shop will house 10 new offices, a training room and an expanded parts area.

While the Administration office will nearly double in size when construction is complete, the expansion will ensure adequate space is available as the County continues respond to growth pressures and service delivery expectations.

"Preparing for the potential expansion to our current facilities, department heads were asked to look 10 years down the road and identify all of the additional staff that will be required," explained Lacombe County Commissioner Terry Hager. "However, it's always a bit of a guessing game. When we moved into this facility, we never expected to outgrow it so quickly. Looking back, we realize that we couldn't plan for all of the unexpected issues, such as the dissolution of the Hamlet of Mirror, the rapid rate of development we've experienced in the past few years, or unforeseen projects, such as the Tangible Capital Asset. These unexpected items place a significant increase on staff workloads."

The new site plan and building designs have been developed to accommodate immediate expansion for the next 10 years. However, the design also provides the onsite capacity for an additional 10 years of expansion should the need arise in the future.

Two firms submitted design built proposals for the project and Council accepted the proposal submitted by Scott Builders. The total project budget is \$5,836,100, with \$1,740,107 in funding coming from the Administration building reserve, \$195,416 from the Public Works building reserve, \$2,121,955 from Lacombe County's 2007 surplus, and \$1,778,662 from Lacombe County's 2007 and 2008 Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding.

"Significant projects require significant dollars," said Lacombe County Reeve Terry Engen. "We are fortunate to have planned ahead and have the necessary funds to successfully complete the project without having to go into a deficit."

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Construction on both facilities is expected to commence within the next few weeks. "We've been short of space to accommodate our current staffing levels for almost two years now," added Hager. "Therefore, moving forward with the project in a timely fashion is crucial. We hope to be in a lock up position by next fall, with substantial completion by February of 2009."

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