



AGENDA ITEM

Town of Eckville

Facility Operational Cost-sharing Agreement

December 12, 2019

BACKGROUND

Lacombe County and the Town of Eckville have been in ICF discussions for several months. Once topic of considerable discussion has been the Facility Operational Cost-sharing Agreement which addresses Lacombe County cost-sharing of the operations of Eckville recreation, library and cemetery facilities. Based on recent discussions between the Town and County agreement has been reached on items of concern to both municipalities and we are now in a position to approve a new agreement.

Eckville Town Council has already approved the agreement, which is being presented to Lacombe County Council for consideration of approval at this time.

ANALYSIS

The Town expressed a desire to receive what they referred to as predictable and sustainable facility operational funding from the County. In this regard they have proposed that the current funding model, which provides the Town with the option of receiving either a fixed grant per facility or funding based on County resident user-ship and facility deficit sharing, be replaced with an annual aggregated fixed sum transfer indexed for inflation annually during the term of the agreement. The first-year transfer amount of \$64,606 represents the County's 2019 payment of \$63,609 plus a 1.25% inflationary adjustment.

Other than the new funding model, some additional preamble statements and the listing of facility names subject to the agreement (see below), the Eckville agreement is identical to the agreements executed with the Villages of Alix, the Village of Clive and the Town of Bentley.

- Eckville Arena
- Eckville Community Centre
- Eckville Ball Diamonds (Forhan Diamond and Andrew Diamond)
- Eckville Cemetery
- Eckville Curling Club



- Eckville Skate Park

- Eckville Spray Park

Alternatives:

- 1) Approve the Facilities Operational Cost Agreement (staff recommendation)
- 2) Take other action as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The agreement's new funding model is cost-neutral to the County.

The funding that Lacombe County is committing to these facilities and the proposed cost-sharing agreement is included in the County's 2020 operating budget.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) to provide services, facilities or other things that, in the opinion of Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and
- c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Section 248(1)(a) of the MGA states that a municipality may only make an expenditure that is included in an operating budget, interim operating budget or capital budget unless otherwise authorized by Council.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of Lacombe County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision:

"An attractive, balanced and progressive community.

Our Mission:

"Building a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and the development of healthy relationships".



Our Key Principles:

“Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork”.

Key Principles:

1. “Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals”.
2. “Accountability for our decisions and for our actions”.

Resource and Asset Management Strategy:

“To manage the natural, financial and physical assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value from all of these resources”.

Service Delivery Strategy:

“Pursuing the best way to provide citizens with appropriate and financially responsible levels of service delivery”.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis.

For this item, the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform:* To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the Town of Eckville/Lacombe County Facility Cost-sharing Agreement.

PREPARED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager





REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager