



AGENDA ITEM

Town of Eckville

Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Agreement

December 12, 2019

BACKGROUND

As you are aware, by March 31, 2020, municipalities that share a common boundary must create an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with each other. This legislated requirement was introduced in the Modernized Municipal Government Act in 2016.

The purpose of the ICF's are to:

- “provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services”;
- “allocate scarce resources efficiently in the providing of local services”; and,
- “ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents”.

Lacombe County has been in discussions with the Town of Eckville concerning the ICF since 2018. Resulting from these discussions has been the development and updating of several sub-agreements with the Town.

Discussions have also taken place with the respective CAO's regarding the required ICF master agreement, which is now being presented to the municipal Councils for their approval. The agreement is attached.

In the ICF agreement, the following major points have been agreed upon:

- Access will be provided to municipal facilities, programs and services to each other's residents in a manner that does not differentiate among them;
- A joint approach will be taken to capital planning for capital assets that deliver mutual benefit;
- A shared investment for shared benefit has been agreed to regarding capital planning and cost-sharing;
- Municipalities will be provided an opportunity for input into policy and service level development regarding operating cost-sharing.



The major points of the Town of Eckville ICF Agreement are as follows:

- Service Inventories have been created for both Eckville and Lacombe County which outline the types of service, funding mechanisms and municipality or party responsible for delivering each service. Services that have been agreed to on an intermunicipal basis include:
 - Solid Waste Collection and Disposal (through the Lacombe Regional Solid Waste Commission);
 - Fire Response Services (through the Fire Services Agreement);
 - Emergency Management (through the Regional Emergency Management Partnership Agreement);
 - Library Services (through the Library Board and Parkland Regional Library);
 - Recreation Services, specifically the provision of facilities for recreation services and programs through the arena and community hall (through County policy and third party community organizations); and,
 - Seniors Housing (through the Lacombe Foundation).

Action requested of Council is to approve, by bylaw, the Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework Agreement as presented.

The Town has not completed Schedule 1 – Services Inventory of the agreement. Upon completion the Town's signing officers will execute the agreement and forward to the County for signature.

ANALYSIS

The ICF Master Agreement addresses all the requirements of the Municipal Government Act.

- In the ICF the following services are addressed:
 - Transportation;
 - Water and Wastewater;
 - Solid Waste;
 - Emergency Services;
 - Recreation; and,
 - Other Services that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities that are parties to the ICF.

Additionally, the ICF lists:

- the services that are currently being provided by each municipality;
- the services that are shared on an intermunicipal basis;
- the services provided by third parties;
- how each of the services would be best delivered; and,
- how intermunicipal services will be delivered and funded.



The ICF also includes:

- a timeframe for implementing the intermunicipal services;
- separately adopted Intermunicipal Development Plans; and,
- provisions for a binding dispute resolution process to resolve implementation disputes.

Alternatives:

1. Approve each ICF Master Agreement, as presented.
2. Take other action(s) as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The budget implications of the ICF Agreements are outlined in the respective sub-agreements with each municipality and will be addressed through the County's annual operating budget.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Pursuant to Section 708.28(1) of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) municipalities that have common boundaries must, within 2 years from the coming into force of this section, create a framework with each other.

Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may only act by resolution or bylaw.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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".

Finance Strategy – Strategic Priority A:

Manage the financial assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value.

Service Delivery Strategy – Strategic Priority A:

Provide appropriate service levels to our citizens.

Service Delivery Strategy – Strategic Priority "B":



Maintain effective cooperation and collaboration with neighbouring urban municipalities.

Service Delivery Strategy – Key Action Item 8.8 (B)

Complete Intermunicipal Development Plans and Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with neighbouring municipalities.

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 give first, second and third reading to Bylaw No. 1311/19, the Bylaw to approve the Town of Eckville and Lacombe County Intermunicipal Collaborative Framework.

PREPARED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

Two blue ink signatures, each enclosed in a square box, stacked vertically.