



AGENDA ITEM

Central Alberta Synergy Funding Request

November 7, 2019

BACKGROUND

Correspondence has recently been received from Central Alberta Synergy (CAS) Group along with their approved budget for 2019/2020. (Attached)

ANALYSIS

CAS has advised that they are requesting funding in the amount of \$ 1,000 from Lacombe County for the 2019/2020 operating year (September 2019 through August 2020). The operational funding formula that CAS has put in place involves membership fees/financial support in the amount of \$ 2,500 annually from participating companies, \$ 1,500 annually from service companies and \$ 1,000 annually from the participating municipalities.

Initiated in the fall of 2018, CAS meets on a regular basis to provide a forum for engagement, information, education and respectful conversations to occur between all stakeholders. CAS has representatives from oil and gas companies and service companies operating in central Alberta, several local utility companies, and representatives from Lacombe County, Red Deer County, Ponoka County, the City of Red Deer, the Town of Bentley, the Alberta Energy Regulator as well as a number of local landowners. Mr. Stephenson and Mr. Wigmore are Lacombe County representatives.

ALTERNATIVES

- Alternative 1: Deny the funding request.
- Alternative 2: Support the request and contribute \$ 1,000 in annual operating funding.
- Alternative 4: Other action as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no provisions in the 2019 operating budget for this request. If Council is supportive of the request funding would be included in the 2020 final 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 following resolution:

That Lacombe County provide support for the Central Alberta Synergy Group in the amount of \$ 1,000; and further, that future support be considered through the County’s annual budget process.

PREPARED BY: Laverne Turnbull, Administrative Executive Assistant 

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager 