



AGENDA ITEM

Lacombe Performing Arts Centre Foundation – RC(1) Request - Performing Arts Centre Project

October 24, 2019

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting on November 29, 2018, the Lacombe Performing Arts Centre Foundation made a presentation to Lacombe County Council concerning its Performing Arts Centre Project. The purpose of the presentation was to 1) present an overview of their endeavor to establish a permanent performance centre in the City of Lacombe; and 2) to request Lacombe County support, in principle, for the purchase of the Lacombe Lutheran Church as a permanent performance centre

At the time the Foundation was seeking a letter of support from the County, which Council endorsed at its next regular meeting on December 13, 2018.

The County has now received an application from the Foundation seeking funding to offset the purchase cost of the building. This request coincides with the City of Lacombe's approval of funding from its Community Builder Partnership Grant. The Foundation is seeking a matching amount from the County.

A copy of the RC(1) application is attached.

Administration is supportive providing funding for this facility, though not at the level requested.

ANALYSIS

Lacombe County Policy RC(1) – "County Capital Support of Approved Recreational/Cultural Facilities" addresses the issue of capital funding for recreation facilities. This policy provides for Lacombe County support for the construction, renovation or addition (structural or equipment) of approved major recreational facilities within the boundaries of the County (including the towns and villages). Approved facilities include covered arenas, swimming pools, curling rinks, public libraries, community halls, outdoor rinks, and other recreational/cultural facilities.

- Visual and Performing Arts Centres are considered Regional Facilities. The Lacombe Performing Arts Centre would fall into this category.

The funding criteria associated with this type of project, as specified in Policy RC(1), are as follows:

1. The urban municipality in which the facility is to be located in must contribute to the project in an amount reflective of the its resident's use of the facility.

The Foundation applied for and received funding in the amount of \$140,937 from the City of Lacombe. The total project cost is \$563,750. The City's contribution is 25% of the total cost.

2. If the facility is owned or operated by an organization other than a municipality, that organization must contribute a minimum of 15% of the total project cost, in cash funds, through fundraising activities, donations and grants.

The Foundation has either raised or borrowed 50% of the project. The amount sought by the Foundation from the County is currently being borrowed by the Foundation.

3. County support may be provided up to a maximum of 50% of the total project cost.

The request for the Foundation from the County is equal to 25% of the total cost of the building.

County approval is also subject to the following conditions:

1. Strong community support.

The Foundation has worked with a number of area community groups over the years such as Lacombe Regional Tourism, Lacombe and District Historical Society, Central Alberta Film Society, Flatiron Jazz Band, Lions Community Band, Homegrown Theatre, Maddox School of Dance, Yellow Door Dance Co., Illusion School of Dance, Light up the Night Festival Committee, Culture and Harvest Festival Committee, Canada Day



Committee, Shakespeare in the Park, Cow Patty Theatre, and the Lacombe Home School Association.

Many of these groups will also become users of the facility. As the applicants also note, the Foundation has also created start-up funding for local groups who wish to establish a new arts organization (e.g. Homegrown Theatre) and has developed new partnerships supporting other regional arts presenters (e.g. Central Alberta Film Festival).

2. Must provide a benefit to all or part of the County.

This will be one of the only purpose-built performing arts facilities in the County.

The Society states that participants are from the Lacombe and area with concert attendees coming from as far as Red Deer, Ponoka and Stettler. From statistics gathered by the Foundation, Lacombe County residents make up 33% of attendees.

Attendees in this case are those viewing performances at the facility. The County's policy has focused on users (in this case performers) rather than the audience. As such Administration does not support providing the full funding based on the attendance figure provided by the Foundation.

Given the opportunity, the Foundation should be able to provide details on the percentage of County residents who are performers once the facility has operated for a year or more. In the interim, Administration is proposing that the County provide half of the amount requested. If subsequent data supports usership numbers, Council could then consider the balance of the request as the amount will be borrowed by the Foundation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the requested amount of \$140,937 with funding from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve
2. Approve ½ of the requested amount or \$70,469 with funding from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.
3. Deny the request.
4. Council provide an alternative level of support.



BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This request is not in the 2019 County operating budget. Should Council support this request, funding would be supported from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

The projected year end balance of the reserve, including projects approved to date is \$3,344,594.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Lacombe County Policy RC(1) - Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities.
2. Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are: 1) to provide good government, 2) 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 3) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.
3. Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.
4. 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

As the Community group has already undertaken a consultation process, the County's public engagement will be limited to informing the public of Council's decision on this matter as well as communicating Council's decision to the Joffre Community Society.

STRATEGIC PLAN

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

Our Vision: "An attractive, balanced and progressive community".

Our Mission: "To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and the development of healthy relationships".

Key Principles: 1) “Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals”, and 2) “Accountability for our decisions and for our actions”.

Recreation Strategy: A. Pursue more recreational opportunities

Key Success Measures:

- Sustainability: “Current services are maintainable and provide benefits for the future, while minimizing negative impacts on the community”,
- Stakeholder Satisfaction: “Healthy relationships with neighbouring municipalities, communities and our citizens.”

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

That Lacombe County Council contribute \$70,469 toward the Lacombe Performing Arts Centre, and

Furthermore, that this contribution be funded from the County’s Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services



REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

