



AGENDA ITEM

Joffre Community Society – RC(1) Request – Horseshoe Pits Upgrades

October 24, 2019

BACKGROUND

The County has received an application from the Joffre Community Society for funding for upgrades to the Community's Horseshoe Pits. The work will be carried out by community volunteers with the bulk of the expense coming in the form of construction materials.

The community group is looking to make the existing horseshoe pits permanent thereby avoiding the need to assemble and de-assemble the pits on annual basis. The group's annual horseshoe pit competition is the group's largest fundraiser for the year.

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

Administration is supportive providing funding for this request.

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.

- This type of project (horseshoe pits) is not specifically included in the list of local facilities in the RC(1) policy.
- However, they are present in open spaces such as playgrounds, rural lakeshore areas, and outdoor rinks.
- This recreation asset is located near the Joffre outdoor rink.



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

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

The Society is requesting \$4,200 or 100% of the cash expenses of the project (or 68% of the total project cost including in kind contribution). Based on this criterion, the project funding request exceeds the policy.

Administration is more supportive of funding the project based on the limits imposed by the policy. This means a range of \$2,006 to \$3,106 depending on whether Council decides to recognize the volunteer in-kind labour to be provided. Current policy does not mention in-kind labour, however given the small size of the project and commitment from the community the additional \$1,100 in funding makes the project more viable without compromising Council on future projects. Council approved funding for Tees on a similar basis.

County approval is also subject to the following conditions:

1. Strong community support.

The Society has conducted community consultations on the project including informally surveying participants of the annual horseshoe tournament.

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

With the horseshoe pits now permanent, the recreation asset can be used more frequently by its end users expanding it from a weekend to seasonal use.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the requested amount of \$4,200 with funding from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve
2. Approve funding in the amount of \$2,006 with funding from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve (equal to 50% of the cash cost).
3. Approve funding in the amount of \$3,106 with funding from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve (equal to 50% of the total cost).
4. Deny the request.



5. 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 \$3,106 toward the Joffre Horseshoe Pits Upgrades, 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

