



## AGENDA ITEM

### Eckville Arena – Ice Plant Replacement Project

February 27, 2020

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#### **BACKGROUND**

Lacombe County has received an application from the Eckville Arena Operating Association for funding for replacement of the arena ice plant and installation of additional de-humidifiers at the Eckville Arena. The total cost of the project is \$640,010 with the County's share being \$106,668 or 17%. The request is being made under the County's Policy RC(1) Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities.

A copy of the request from the Eckville Arena Operating Association is attached.

The request was anticipated by the County as the County had previously supported the expansion of the condenser room at the Arena. This project was necessary to facilitate the replacement of the current ice plant.

Administration is supportive of this funding request.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The facility is owned by the Town of Eckville and operated by the Association and thus is an eligible facility under the policy guidelines.

The applicant has indicated that County residents make up approximately 40% of the users of the facility. The request for 17% of the total cost falls within these user-ship numbers.

The project is also contingent on funding from both the Town and the Province. The Town passed a resolution supporting the projecting and committing \$106,668.33 in funding toward the project at its February 10, 2020 regular meeting.

The Association will also apply to the Province of Alberta's Community Facility Enhancement Program. The Association was successful in receiving a grant



under this program for its Condenser Room Project. However, the proposed grant amount for this project is substantially more and will require the Association to apply under the Large Project category of the grant. Success under this category is not assured. Depending on the success of this application, additional funding from the County may be necessary.

The Association is seeking a letter of participation and a financial commitment of \$106,668 from the County.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the request as requested (Administration's recommendation).
2. Deny the request
3. Approve an amount as determined by Council

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Funding for this project is not in the 2020 County operating budget. Should Council support this request, funding would be provided through the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

The projected 2020 year-end balance of the reserve, including projects approved to January 9, 2020, is \$4,913,833, (including the 2020 contribution to reserves of \$1.59 million).

The County also has \$3,463,000 in other requests that are before Council.

## **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 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 the 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".

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".

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".

Key Success Measures – Sustainability: "Current services are maintainable and provide benefits for the future, while minimizing negative impacts on the community", and "Shared sense of identity, regardless of municipal boundaries".

Key Success Measures – Stakeholder Satisfaction: "Healthy relationships with neighbouring municipalities, communities and our citizens."

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

As the Association has already undertaken a consultation process with the Town and its members, 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 Town of Eckville and the Association.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the following resolution:

*That Lacombe County Council commit to fund 17% of the cost of the Eckville Arena Ice Plant Replacement, to a maximum of \$106,833, and furthermore, that this contribution be funded from the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.*

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**PREPARED BY:** Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services



**REVIEWED BY:** Tim Timmons, County Manager

