



AGENDA ITEM

Eckville Community Centre Society

Furnace and HVAC Replacement Project

March 26, 2020

BACKGROUND

Lacombe County has received an urgent application from the Eckville Community Centre Society for funding for replacement of the centre's front area furnaces and existing ductwork. The total cost of the project is \$41,194.55 (including GST) with the County's share being \$13,731.52 or 33%. 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 Community Centre is attached.

This was an unexpected request and as the application points out the Society itself has been struggling with ongoing repairs of these furnaces.

Administration is supportive of this funding request.

ANALYSIS

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

The group is seeking \$13,731.52 or 1/3 of the project cost including GST. Typically, the County provides funding exclusive of GST as the organizations typically cover this cost and receive some form of rebate.

The Society has received quotes for the proposed work and as such Administration is confident that the project budget is a true reflection of the potential cost of the project.

The request is for 33% of the total cost. The facility currently receives the base grant and County resident usage is not tracked. The last grant provided to the group was in 2012. The County provided funding of \$45,000 towards the \$155,978 project with a matching amount from the Town.

The project is also contingent on funding from the Town. The Town will be taking this request to their Council on March 23rd. Administration will provide an update to Council on the Town's decision at meeting time. The Town is also being asked to fund 1/3 of the project cost.



The Centre group will provide the remaining 1/3 from its internal funds.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the request for \$13,731.52 (includes GST)
2. Approve funding in the amount of \$13,316.05 (excludes GST) Administration recommendation.
3. Deny the request
4. 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 February 29, 2020, is \$2,435,749, (including the 2020 contribution to reserves of \$1.59 million).

The County also has \$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

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 Society.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

That Lacombe County Council commit to fund 33% of the cost of the Eckville Community Centre Furnace and HVAC Replacement Project, to a maximum of \$13,316.05, 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

