



AGENDA ITEM

Community Based 10 Year Recreation Capital Plan

October 14, 2021

BACKGROUND

Council has previously inquired as to the ongoing financial sustainability of the County's Recreational Capital Assistance Reserve. The Reserve was established by County Policy AD(30) Financial Reserves and is intended to fund the construction, renovation or addition of major recreation and cultural facilities in the County and in the urban municipalities in the County (an excerpt from the policy is included).

An annual contribution of \$35 per capita is made to this reserve in addition to allocations from other reserves based on the County MSI Plan. The reserve has funded many major projects in the County over the years with the most recent being:

- Haynes Community Hall
- Sylvan Lake Podagl Park
- Blackfalds Arena and Library Construction
- Eckville and Bentley Arena Upgrades

Projects include new construction as well as annual life cycle renewal projects such as replacement of heating systems, roofs, equipment, and playground equipment.

Several projects over the last 5 years have had a significant drain on the reserve balance. As the Province's MSI program winds down there are questions on whether the fund will have the resources to fund future capital requests.

This report attempts to answer this question.

ANALYSIS

Administration has compiled a list of known projects that have been identified by communities. The Town of Blackfalds and City of Lacombe have developed long term capital plans which include recreation projects. These projects along with other projects that have appeared before Council but not yet approved are outlined in Appendix A.



The plans identified currently have a relatively small amount of capital projects compared to the past decade. However, these plans are updated annually and with elections due shortly, changes are likely.

Appendix A identifies the total cost of each project as well as the expected capital contribution from the County based on historical contribution levels. Again, these are long term plans, and the County has not been approached to fund these projects.

Appendix B shows the ongoing reserve balance for the Recreational Capital Assistance Reserve account. This balance assumes that the County will (1) contribute the annual \$35/per capita contribution and (2) maintain the current MSI reallocation amount (based on 2021 amounts) until 2024. That is the year that the MSI program is expected to end.

As Appendix B shows, the reserve would be able to sustain funding of the proposed projects currently identified.

Administration intends to maintain this plan and update it as projects are identified by community organizations and urban municipalities.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council can accept this report for information.
2. Council can direct Administration to take further action.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information and planning purposes and does not commit Council to funding the projects identified in the report.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Council Policy RC(1) – Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities
2. Council Policy AD(30) – Financial Reserves

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

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Core Strategies– "Finance," "Service Delivery"
 - Strategic Priority – Manage the financial assets of the County to continue to provide appropriate and sustainable service levels
 - Strategic Priority - Provide appropriate service levels to our citizens.
 - Strategic Priority - Maintain effective cooperation and collaboration with neighbouring urban and rural municipalities.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council accept this report for information.

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