



AGENDA ITEM

City of Lacombe/Lacombe County

Facilities Operational Cost-Sharing Agreement - Revision

September 23, 2021

BACKGROUND

One of the initiatives agreed to in the Lacombe County/City of Lacombe Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) was revising/updating the Facilities Operational Cost-sharing agreement which had been in place since 2009. This agreement outlines the principles and methodologies for County funding of City owned and operated facilities.

The revised agreement was developed and subsequently approved by the City and County in the fall of 2020.

Another initiative outlined in the Lacombe County/City of Lacombe ICF was the development of a joint process for considering requests from community groups for capital and operating support from the municipalities. The rationale for developing this process is to ensure that the City and County receive the same information from the community group requesting support and furthermore, to ensure that the decisions made by each of the Councils are not made in isolation of the other Council.

This process has been developed and incorporated into the Facilities Operational Cost-sharing agreement. The revised agreement was reviewed at the September 16, 2021 City of Lacombe/Lacombe County IDP/ICF Committee meeting where committee members agreed to recommend to City and County Councils that the revised agreement be approved.

Action requested of Council regarding this matter is consideration of approval of the revised agreement. A copy of this agreement is attached.

ANALYSIS

Community group projects subject to this new process are those having a total capital cost of greater than \$500,000 and/or an annual operating cost of greater than \$75,000.



The proposed, three-step process is as follows:

1. A joint public meeting of the City and County Councils will be held for the purpose of receiving the community group's presentation and request.
2. Following this meeting, the City and County Councils will meet separately to discuss the request either publicly or in-camera. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of each municipality will ensure that the CAO of the other municipality is advised of the date in which the respective Councils will be meeting to discuss the request. No formal resolutions regarding the community group request should be made by either Council at their respective meetings.
3. Once the City and County have deliberated separately, a second joint City and County public meeting will be held for the purpose of discussing the community group request and developing a recommendation on the request to be presented to the respective Councils. Though ideally each Council's decision on the recommendation should align with the other's, the independent decision-making authority of each Council must not be compromised. Although not concurrent, the decision of each Council should be well informed by fulsome discussion with the other Council.

Alternatives:

1. Approve the revised Facilities Operational Cost Sharing Agreement, as presented. (Administrative recommendation)
2. Take other action(s) as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Though there will be financial implications in considering funding requests for community group projects, there are no budget implications associated with the revision of this agreement.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Section 3 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) states the purposes of a municipality are:

- a) to provide good government,
- b) 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



c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

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 Lacombe 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".

Our Key Principles: "Recognizing our history and solid foundation, we approach the role of providing the best possible level of municipal services for our citizens through a base of collaborative and supportive teamwork".

Key Principles:

1. "Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals".
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".

Service Delivery Strategy: "Pursuing the best way to provide citizens with appropriate and financially responsible levels of service delivery".

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

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the revised City of Lacombe/Lacombe County Facilities Operational Cost-Sharing agreement, as presented.

PREPARED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

