



## AGENDA ITEM

### Policy RC(9) County Support of Community Programs, Events & Activities Update April 28, 2022

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of Lacombe County Policy RC(9) is to fund community programs, events and activities that strengthen the quality of life of its residents and foster civic pride.

Under the County's Recreation Policy RC(9), the County allots funding on an annual basis for community events in the County and surrounding urban municipalities. In 2022, the County has so far awarded \$24,456 in funding to ten groups, with events occurring throughout the year.

The annual deadline for Policy RC(9) funding requests is January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and typically Council awards the funding by February 28<sup>th</sup>. As mentioned at the February 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council, a number of community groups have been waiting to determine the feasibility of hosting events. The County has now received two new applications for events in 2022.

Administration is seeking Council's consideration and approval of the applications at the recommended amounts.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Funding provided pursuant to Policy RC(9) is allocated on a municipality basis with both municipalities and community groups being eligible for funding. The amount of funding allocated for programs, events and activities held in each municipality was originally established at \$0.75 per capita based on the official population of each individual municipality. There is also a minimum level of funding allocated to each municipality as follows: 1) Towns and Villages - \$1,000, and 2) Summer Villages - \$500.

In late 2015, Council amended Policy RC(9) to include a clause to index the funding amounts annually for inflation. Based on indexing for 2022, the funding rates are as follows:

- Per Capita - \$0.829
- Towns and Villages - \$1,107



- Summer Villages -\$554

These rates combined with the 2021 population figures for the urban communities and summer villages results in the following maximum allocations by community:

Community	Annual Allocation
Alix	1,107
Bentley	1,107
Blackfalds	8,394
Clive	1,107
Eckville	1,107
Lacombe	11,594
Lacombe County	8,574
SV of Gull Lake	554
SV of Sunbreaker Cove	554
SV of Birchcliff	554
SV of Half Moon Bay	554
	<u>35,206</u>

The 2022 allocation was increased by 2.75% from the 2021 allocation.

To date, the County has awarded just over \$24,000 in grants to ten applicants, a slight increase over 2021. The County recently received two additional grants applications, one from the Gull Lake Community League and one from the Mirror Association for Ball Diamonds, Campground and Skating on behalf of a number of groups in Mirror.

The Gull Lake Community League hosts a variety of events in Gull Lake on behalf of the community including July 1<sup>st</sup>, Christmas Potluck and Family Day events. The group has applied for \$650 and would be eligible for \$554.

The Mirror Association for Ball Diamonds, Campground and Skating is requesting \$500 for funding for the Mirror Days events scheduled for the May Long Weekend. Various community groups have partnered to put on events that weekend. The \$500 from the County would be put towards a fireworks show.

Administration is still expecting additional applications this year and will bring them forward as they are received.

Alternatives

1. Approve the applications as presented (Administrative Recommendation)
2. Approve the applications as directed by Council.



**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The County’s 2022 operating budget includes provisions for the Policy RC(9) applications for each community. The total budget for 2022 is 35,180.

**LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Lacombe County Council Policy RC(9) – County Support of Community, Program, Events, Activities.
2. Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 (MGA)
  - Section 3 of the 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 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the following 2022 Policy RC(9) applications as follows:

Gull Lake Community League	\$554
Mirror Association for Ball Diamonds, Campground and Skating	\$500

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