



AGENDA ITEM

Lacombe & District Historical Society

RC(1) Grant Application – Collection & Archives Facility

February 24, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Lacombe & District Historical Society has applied to the County under the County's Policy RC(1) Recreation Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities policy. The project put forward by the Society is the creation of a new collection and archives facility.

The facility would be located at its existing location in the Flat Iron building and would relocate the Society's existing archives and collections from the basement of the Michener House to a new space in the Flat Iron.

The Society has secured funding from a number of sources and has applied to other agencies for additional funding.

The Society is seeking funding from the County equivalent to funding already approved by the City of Lacombe.

ANALYSIS

The County currently provides operational funding to the Lacombe Museum under the County's RC(10) Policy for Historical, Cultural, Tourism, Visitor Information Facilities and Services.

Museums in general are considered district facilities under the County's RC(1) capital grant policy and eligible for County funding for capital projects.

The Museum's proposed project would impact County residents in the following ways:

1. Historical resources from the City and surrounding County would be stored in a safer environment ensuring preservation for future users.
2. Providing improved access to records for research by the public.



As a condition for funding, the County looks to the urban municipality to contribute to the project. The City has approved \$20,398 or 21% of the total project cost to the Society. The Society is seeking a matching grant from the County.

In addition to funding from the local municipalities, the Society has applied for two museum specific grant programs. Those amounts have not yet been approved.

Finally, the Society is also contributing funding toward the project in the amount \$17,893.

Alternatives:

1. Approve the Society's request for funding in the amount of \$20,398 and fund the request from the County's Recreation Capital Reserve (Administrative recommendation).
2. Deny the request.
3. Approve an amount less than the requested amount.
4. Take other action(s) as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

County support of the Historical Society's project would be funded through the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve which has a projected 2021 year-end balance of \$2,043,782. Council has already approved \$250,000 from the reserve for projects in 2022.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Lacombe County Policy RC(1) - Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities.

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.

Section 180(1) of the MGA states that council may only act by resolution or bylaw.

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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

Lacombe County Council approve up to \$20,398 of funding towards the Lacombe & District Historical Society's Lacombe Museum Collection and Archives Facility project and that this contribution be funded from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Corporate Services Director

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REVIEWED BY: Bill Cade, Acting County Manager

A blue ink signature of Bill Cade, consisting of stylized initials, enclosed in a square box.