



## AGENDA ITEM

### Lacombe Athletic Park Track and Field Expansion

#### Policy RC(1) Funding Request

**January 31, 2022**

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#### **BACKGROUND**

At the December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 joint meeting of Lacombe County and City of Lacombe Councils, the Lacombe Athletic Park Association presented an update to its track and field expansion project. This update follows information provided by the Association earlier that year, when representatives of the Lacombe Athletic Park Association (LAPA) attended the September 9, 2021 Council meeting to provide 1) an update on their Field House Expansion project, and 2) a presentation in support of their request for County funding support of phase 2 of their project being the Track and Field Expansion.

A copy of their Track and Field Expansion project presentation and their Policy RC(1) application is attached. Both Councils met again on January 18, 2022 to discuss the merits of the project and the timing of funding for the project.

The total cost of this project is \$2.7 million with proposed funding sources being as follows:

Community Facilities Enhancement Program (CFEP)	\$1,000,000
Canadian Communities Revitalization Fund (CCRF)	\$500,000
City of Lacombe	\$500,000
Lacombe County	\$500,000
LAPA Marketing & Fundraising Plan	<u>\$200,000</u>
 Total	 \$2,700,000

The City of Lacombe has included \$500,000 for this project in their 10-year capital plan (\$250,000 in 2022 and \$250,000 in 2023). At their regular meeting on January 24, 2022, Lacombe City Council confirmed its 2022 funding commitment for the project.

LAPA was advised last week that they were not successful in this round of CFEP Major Project funding. They will reapply again later this year.



## **ANALYSIS**

With the denial of their CFEP grant request and the status of the CCRF grant still outstanding, it is doubtful that the project will proceed in 2022. However with the City committing some funding toward the project, it may assist the Association with other grants if a commitment is also made by the County. As per Policy, the County's commitment should not exceed the approved amount from the City. If Council pursues this process, Council would then have to revisit the project if it proceeds and the City provides its other half. This commitment could take the form of cash or in-kind support depending on availability of County resources.

In terms of eligibility of the project, as an outdoor multi-use facility, the Lacombe Athletic Park is considered a regional facility under the County's RC(1) Recreation Capital Policy. There have been some questions by Council concerning usership, specifically regarding local schools. LAPA has provided its booking rates and a summary of its school booking practice (attached). Only the Lacombe High School is considered a preferred user organization and that is as the result of paying the annual fee. All other schools do have access to the facility during school hours.

### Alternatives:

1. Approve initial funding in the form of cash or in-kind support equal to the City of Lacombe's 2022 funding commitment of \$250,000 with the balance to be reviewed in 2023 (Administration recommendation).
2. Approve the entire amount request up to a maximum of \$500,000.
3. Delay a decision until the Association secures funding from the Provincial and Federal government grant programs.
4. Take other action(s) as determined by Council.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

County support of the LAPA project would be funded through the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve which has a projected 2021 year-end balance of \$2,043,782



## 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 \$250,000 of cash funding and/or in-kind support towards Lacombe Athletic Park running track project with a second funding commitment to be considered in 2023 and subject to further funding by the City of Lacombe.*

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**PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Corporate Services Director**

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

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