



AGENDA ITEM

LACOMBE COUNTY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Consultant Presentations

March 10, 2022

BACKGROUND

At the meeting on December 16th, Council endorsed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Economic Development Strategy (EDS). Staff completed a Request for Proposals (RFP) which was released on January 11th with a deadline of February 11th.

The RFP was sent directly to nine consultants, advertised through the County News, and posted on the Lacombe County website.

Staff received six complete proposals, and as indicated in the TOR, have selected the top three consultants to provide a presentation to Council. Presentations will be delivered at the March 10, 2022, Council meeting by:

Factor5 Group - 1:45 pm

MDB Insight - 2:15 pm

McSweeney & Associates - 2:45 pm

ANALYSIS

The objective is to create a comprehensive EDS that will clearly outline priorities for the next five years. These priorities will be organized into an implementation plan, listing goals and objectives, and categorizing them as short, medium, or long-term.

Based on the scope of the work plan, the expertise and professional services of a consultant(s) will be required to effectively facilitate the project and produce a final document. The successful consultant(s) will complete an EDS factoring input from all stakeholders, Council, and the public into decision making.

The final EDS will be presented to Council before the end of 2022 for endorsement. The EDS will provide clear direction for staff through a detailed implementation plan; it will require regular review and updating to ensure that it remains relevant.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

\$60,000 has been budgeted to complete this project. This will include consultation fees, as well as additional project costs for advertising, print materials, and any public events.

All three presenting consultants came in within this budget.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Municipal Government Act: Section 3 – 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 for all or a part of the municipality, and
- (c) to develop and maintain safe and viable communities

RECOMMENDATION

That Council select the consultant of their choice and direct the County Manager to proceed with the development of the Lacombe County Economic Development Strategy.

PREPARED BY: Monica Bartman, Economic Development Officer
REVIEWED BY: Dale Freitag, Director of Planning Services
REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager

