



MEETING DATE: AUGUST 20, 2019

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AND RECREATION GRANTS UTILITIES REBATE PROGRAM – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River approve the recommended Option A of not implementing a Community Enhancement and Recreation Grants Utilities Rebate Program at this time.

DETAILS

Background:

At the March 26, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, Council requested Administration to provide a report on options for funding community associations to assist in subsidizing their operational and utility (ie. Natural Gas) costs. There is currently an array of operational grants that community halls and recreational facilities can apply for each year. These programs are based on providing support for the standard expenses of Utilities and Insurance that all facilities incur. Thus these facilities are already being subsidized, as long as they apply for the grants. There is also a standing motion that allows for an annual increase of 2% in the total available funds for the recreation grants. This covers general operational increases in expenses for all.

Discussion:

Should Council wish to increase the budget allocated to the Recreation Grants to provide additional support, it is recommended to distribute funds in one of the following manners. Options have minimal impact on administration work and would not require complex adjustments to existing natural gas accounts in order to implement. The new program would be implemented within the current Community Enhancement and Recreation Grants program. Full details and financial breakdown of the Options are included in the attachment.

OPTION A: continue to encourage all halls and facilities to utilize the existing grants that are available, but not implement additional programs at this time.



OPTION B: implement a Natural Gas Rebate Program for those facilities that are customers of the CVR Gas Utility up to a budget of \$7,000.

OPTION C: Increase the overall budget for the Grants by \$6,000 and provide a base Utilities Rebate to those low-use facilities that have less than 50 user days in a year.

OPTION D: Increase the overall budget for the Grants by \$9,000 and provide a base Utilities Rebate to all applicants.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

1. Community Enhancement and Recreations Grants Programs

Desired Outcome (s):

To provide Council with an overview of the impact of program implementation.

Response Options:

That the County of Vermilion River approve Option A OR

That the County of Vermilion River approve Option B OR

That the County of Vermilion River approve Option C OR

That the County of Vermilion River approve Option D OR

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Adjustments to application forms would be required prior to the end of August if implementing Options B, C, or D

Financial: Adjustments to the overall budget would be required

ATTACHMENTS

1. Utilities Rebate Program Concepts

PREPARED BY: Community Development Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Director of Planning and Development

DATE: August 8, 2019