



COMMITTEE MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2024

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COMMITTEE

SUBJECT

COMMUNITY FUNDING – MARWAYNE ARENA DEBENTURE REQUEST – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River select funding scenario 1 of \$750,000.00 as per Policy PD 021 – Community Enhancement Funding and further information be brought back to review budgetary impacts.

DETAILS

Background: At the August 20, 2024 Regular Meeting of Council, Marwayne Agricultural Society (the “Ag Society”) presented information about the upgrades that are needed at the Marwayne Arena. Along with their presentation to Council, a special capital application was submitted. The capital request was for a \$1,000,000.00 debenture. The request is for funds to replace the ice plant and complete renovations at the Marwayne Arena (the “Arena”). The renovations currently being worked on are the replacement of brine lines, boards and ice surface. Revenue for the renovations have come from fundraising, donations, in-kind labour, the Village of Marwayne and Community Facility Enhancement Program (CFEP) grant(s). The next stage of the Arena renovations is to replace the ice plant, replace the roof, install new heaters, and construct new bleachers.

The Marwayne Arena is used approximately 245 days of the year and by about 9,000 people from the region.

The Ag Society hopes to have funds showing in the budget for June 2025 to acknowledge matching funds on the next CFEP application that is submitted. Ideally, they would like funding approval by October 2025, but may be able to hold off until 2026. This is dependent on how long the ice plant is able to continue working.



Discussion: Under Policy PD 021, capital project assistance is available to eligible community organizations that are looking to complete capital projects for their recreational facility or community hall. Funding can come from a special tax levy, recreation reserve funds, hamlet resource funds or other funding sources identified by Council. The policy states that organizations will be funded up to a maximum of 25 per cent of the total project cost. This policy gives Council the ability to approve requests at their discretion.

Policy PD 021 states that projects should meet the special capital funding goals. These are:

Sustainability: management of financial, environmental, and social resources to ensure long-term viability and resilience

Efficiency: the degree to which resources are utilized optimally to achieve project outcomes

Commitment: dedication and obligation of financial resources, time and effort towards successful initiation, execution and completion of the projects' goals and objectives.

These questions can be considered for discussion to ensure that this project is meeting the capital funding goals:

- How will the project benefit the community and contribute to long-term sustainability of the community?
- Are there any potential negative social impacts that need to be considered?
- How does the projects' cost compare to its benefits?
- Are there more efficient ways to achieve the same project outcomes?
- Is there a contingency plan in place to address unforeseen challenges?
- Are there any potential conflicts of interest or opposition to the project?

Debentures that have been approved in the past:

DEBENTURES		
Community	Annual Payment (\$)	Debenture End
Marwayne	\$81,877.90	2025
Vermilion	\$92,795.22	2026
Paradise Valley	\$61,033.88	2029
Dewberry	\$111,297.48	2031



Previously approved Capital Projects:

CAPITAL PROJECTS		
Organization	Project	Funded
2019		
Rivercourse Hall	Roof Repairs	\$10,000.00 – Park Trust
Vermilion Ice Plant	Ice Plant	\$50,000.00 – Park Trust
St. Jerome’s School	Playground	\$50,000.00 – Park Trust
Kitscoty Elementary School	Playground	\$10,000.00 – Park Trust
Bowtell Community Association	Shingles & Siding Repair	\$2,000.00 – Small Capital Fund
2020		
Lea Park Golf Club	Bridge Rehabilitation	\$50,000.00 – Park Trust
Fidelity National Hall	Natural Gas Installation	\$1,250.00 – Small Capital Fund
2021		
Buffalo Coulee Community Club	Furnace Replacement	\$6,000.00 – General Recreation Reserve
2022		
Dewberry Ag Society	Arena Boards & Anchor System	\$9,000.00 – Kitscoty Recreation Reserve
Blackfoot Lions Club	Outdoor Arena Puck Board Replacement	\$3,600.00 – General Recreation Reserve
2023		
Kitscoty Ag Society (Arena Board)	Facility Upgrades	\$75,000.00 – Park Trust, General Recreation Reserve, Kitscoty Recreation Reserve
Village of Marwayne	Splash Park	\$25,000.00 – Park Trust
Blackfoot Lions Club	Playground	\$50,000.00 – Park Trust, Kitscoty Recreation Reserve



2024		
Lea Park Rodeo Association	Facility Upgrades	\$50,000.00 – Recreation Reserve

Three (3) scenarios for consideration for funding the Marwayne Agricultural Society capital project request are attached.

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

PD 021 – Community Enhancement Funding

Desired Outcome (s): THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River select funding scenario 1 of \$750,000.00 as per Policy PD 021 – Community Enhancement Funding and further information be brought back to review budgetary impacts.

Response Options: THAT the County of Vermilion River Policy and Priorities Committee recommend that the County of Vermilion River select funding scenario 1 of \$750,000.00 as per Policy PD 021 – Community Enhancement Funding and further information be brought back to review budgetary impacts.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to manage notifying the applicant, the distribution of funds

Financial: Administration will distribute funds based on direction given by Council

Communication Required: Council, Administration, Marwayne Agricultural Society

Implementation: Upon Council Approval

ATTACHMENTS

1. PD 021 – Community Enhancement Funding
2. Marwayne Agricultural Society – Special Capital Project Grant Application
3. Proposed Scenarios for funding the Marwayne Agricultural Society Capital Project Request



PREPARED BY: Community Services Coordinator

REVIEWED BY: Director of Planning and Community Services

DATE: October 7, 2024