

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 21, 2018

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

MUNICIPALITIES FOR CLIMATE INNOVATION PROGRAM: CLIMATE CHANGE STAFF GRANT – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River direct Administration to apply for grant funding available from Federal and Provincial levels to assist in costs for the development of Inter-municipal plans and initiatives.

DETAILS

Background: The grants that the County of Vermilion River Planning and Development administration will be immediately making application for are the Climate Change Staff Grant and the Alberta Community Partnership (ACP).

Staff grants are funds used to pay up to 80% of the salary (to a maximum of \$125,000 over a 24-month period) for one new or existing employee who will implement specific municipal initiatives focused on Green House Gas (GHG) emissions reduction or climate change adaptation. The funding may be used by a single municipality or by two or more eligible applicants who will share the services of one grant-funded staff person.

Alberta Community Partnership funding made available through the Province of Alberta has the objective to improve the viability and long-term sustainability of municipalities by providing support for regional collaboration and capacity building initiatives. The 2018/2019 program budget is \$18.5 million and for each project a maximum funding available has been set at \$200,000. Eligible projects include Intermunicipal collaboration, municipal restructuring, mediation and cooperative processes, municipal internship, and local land use planning. Administration would apply for funding under this grant and if successful, the funding would go towards the development of the Intermunicipal Development Plan and Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework between the County of Vermilion River, Village of Paradise Valley, Village of Marwayne, Village of Dewberry and Village of Kitscoty, that has a potential project cost of \$240,000. The four Villages have already apply for an ACP grant in 2017/2018 and have been



successful in their application, portions of their funding have been allocated to assist them in local planning initiatives.

Discussion: As per Policy AD-017: Grants and Project Management, the following information about the Climate Change Staff Grant is provided for Council's consideration:

1. Grant information & criteria that has to be met:
 - The County of Vermilion River will apply for the "Climate Change Adaptation" portion of the grant. Proposals must describe the planned initiatives (for example, developing a climate mitigation or adaptation vision, preparing and holding public consultation, setting up steering committee) and must clearly demonstrate how this work contributes to the municipality's priorities for improving climate change adaptation (i.e. environmental matters required for Intermunicipal Development Plans). Grant recipients are required to move activities from the planning stage to implementation over the course of the grant period.
2. Project/options that meet the grant criteria:
 - The grant-funded staff will work in a cross-functional capacity with all partners (Villages of Dewberry, Kitscoty, Marwayne & Paradise Valley) in developing and integrating policies and objectives within the Intermunicipal Development Plans and Collaboration Frameworks that reflect the shared vision and values of the municipalities for their communities, which serve as a point of reference in decision making and prioritization of relevant matters within the Plans and Frameworks.
3. Estimated cost per project/option:
 - Year 1 - \$98,002.94
 - Year 2 - \$100,003.00
4. Standards/timelines that apply to the project:
 - Funded initiatives must be completed within a maximum of twenty-four (24) months of the hiring of the staff. The provincial deadline for these projects is April 1, 2020.
5. Information on impacts and sustainability of the project after construction:
 - Effective collaboration between municipalities enhances certainty and predictability for economic development, and promotes public confidence and sound planning and provision of services.
 - The Plans and Frameworks that will be developed are statutory documents mandatory under provincial legislation. These Plans and Frameworks; and the policies and agreements they contain; ensure alignment of long-term goals (30-

year horizon) and secure long-term contributions (cost-revenue) to intermunicipal provision of services, including developing a structure for continued support to adjacent municipalities through the sharing of staff.

6. Benefits to be gained by the grant/project:

- The development of four (4) Intermunicipal Development Plans and four (4) Intermunicipal Collaboration Frameworks with added value to the community in terms of elevated municipal staff capacity to engage in similar projects in the future and advance the County and its partners in the maturity level scale for climate adaptation.

7. Resources required – staff/financial plan:

- One grant-funded staff

Relevant Policy/Legislation Practices:

Policy AD-017: Grants and Project Management

Municipal Government Act

Desired Outcome (s): To apply for Federal and Provincial available grant funding.

Response Options: THAT the County of Vermilion River direct Administration to apply for grant funding available from Federal and Provincial levels to assist in costs for the development of Intermunicipal plans and initiatives.

OR

THAT the County of Vermilion River not apply for available grant funding.

OR

THAT the County of Vermilion River receive the summaries on the Climate Change Staff Grant and the Alberta Community Partnership Grant as information.

IMPLICATIONS OF RECOMMENDATION

Organizational: Administration to apply for available grant funding.

Financial: Grant funding up to a maximum of \$125,000 over a 24-month period (80% of salary)



Communication Required: Council; Federation of Canadian Municipalities – Municipalities for Climate Innovation Program; Planning & Development; Village partners; Finance Department

Implementation: July 10, 2018

ATTACHMENTS

1. Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) Grant and Climate Change Staff Grant summary report.

PREPARED BY: Director of Planning & Development

DATE: July 6, 2018