



## AGENDA ITEM

### Shovel Ready Projects Submission

April 23, 2020

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#### **BACKGROUND**

There has been considerable discussion at the federal and provincial government levels of the need to stimulate the economy through job creation. Though no official announcements have been made both Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) are encouraging municipalities to prepare and submit a list of shovel ready projects for consideration of federal and provincial government funding.

While a clear definition of a shovel ready project has not been provided in speaking with RMA staff, we understand it to mean projects that can be undertaken in this construction and calendar year.

At the federal level, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is requesting leveraging of existing grant programs, with a focus on delivering funding efficiently and quickly to local governments. Specifically, they are requesting federal government consideration of doubling or tripling the Gas Tax Fund for core municipal infrastructure. At the provincial level, while the Premier and the Minister of Municipal Affairs have asked for indications of projects, nothing official has been announced.

Action requested of Council regarding this matter is approval of Lacombe County shovel ready projects for consideration of federal and provincial government funding.

#### **ANALYSIS**

Attached is a list of potential Lacombe County projects that meet the loosely defined criteria of being shovel ready.

Given that we have already tendered and awarded most of our 2020 projects, with the exception of a major culvert replacement, all projects on the list are scheduled for 2021 and beyond. Notwithstanding, other than four bridge projects which still require environmental approvals all of the projects could easily be advanced to 2020. Lacombe County reserve funding is available for all of the projects with the exception of the Sandy Point Trail and the Aspelund Road Extension paving project.



## ALTERNATIVES

1. Council approve the project list as presented, or as revised by Council, and submit it to FCM and Alberta Municipal Affairs. (Administration's recommendation)
2. Council approve the project list as presented, or as revised by Council and defer its submission until formal stimulus funding program announcements are made.
3. Council direct Administration on a different course of action.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Given the limited information available on the potential stimulus programs we are unable to determine what the associated budget implications to Lacombe might be. However, Lacombe County reserve funding is available for all of the projects with the exception of the Sandy Point Trail and the Aspelund Road Extension paving project. As such, if the stimulus programs require municipal funding our reserves would be used for our share.

## LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

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.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

The following elements of the County's Strategic Plan are relevant to this issue:

Our Vision: "An attractive, balanced and progressive community".

Our Mission: "To build a safe and vibrant community through leadership, innovation and healthy relationships".

Finance Strategic Priority: "Manage the financial assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value.

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Lacombe County sees the value in engaging and informing the public/stakeholders through a variety of mediums as outlined in the *Policy AD(40): Public Participation Policy*. The appropriate level of engagement for each public participation opportunity is selected on a project-to-project basis. For this item the following engagement will take place:

- *Inform:* To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions

Highlights of all County Council meetings are published on the County Website and in the County News.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council pass the following resolution:

That Council approve the Lacombe County list of Shovel Ready projects and submit such list to Alberta Municipal Affairs and other federal and provincial agencies as required.

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



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

