



## AGENDA ITEM

### Policy RC(9) County Support of Community Programs, Events & Activities Update February 25, 2021

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#### **BACKGROUND**

The annual deadline for Policy RC(9) funding applications is January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. This year's applications have been received for programs, events, and activities in Lacombe County and all of the urban municipalities within the County, including the Summer Villages. The following is a summary of the applications.

Administration is seeking Council's consideration and approval of the applications at the recommended amounts.

#### **ANALYSIS**

The purpose of Policy RC(9) is to fund community programs, events and activities that strengthen the quality of life of its residents and foster civic pride.

Funding provided pursuant to Policy RC(9) is allocated on a municipality basis with both municipalities and community groups being eligible for funding. The amount of funding allocated for programs, events and activities held in each municipality was originally established at \$0.75 per capita based on the official population of each individual municipality. There is also a minimum level of funding allocated to each municipality as follows: 1) Towns and Villages - \$1,000, and 2) Summer Villages - \$500.

In late 2015, Council amended Policy RC(9) to include a clause to index the funding amounts annually for inflation. Based on indexing for 2021, the funding rates are as follows:

- Per Capita - \$0.807
- Towns and Villages - \$1,077
- Summer Villages - \$539

These rates combined with the 2020 population figures for the urban communities and summer villages results in the following maximum allocations by community:



Community	Annual Allocation
Alix	1,077
Bentley	1,077
Blackfalds	8,171
Clive	1,077
Eckville	1,077
Lacombe	11,286
Lacombe County	8,347
SV of Gull Lake	539
SV of Sunbreaker Cove	539
SV of Birchcliff	539
SV of Half Moon Bay	539
	34,268

The 2021 allocation is the same as the 2020 allocation.

The County received 8 applications for 2021, down from 2020 when 26 applications were received. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on events in 2020 has influenced funding for 2021. Several events were not held in 2020 and as a result, many groups asked that their 2020 funding be used to host 2021 events. A total of 11 events will have their funding carried over from 2020 to 2021.

Some communities have not applied for any funding. Given the unique situation communities are in Administration is proposing that Council consider future requests as there may be more clarity on the hosting of public events in the coming months.

The following is a summary of the applications received along with Administration's evaluation and recommendation.



Lacombe County RC(9) Grant Program  
2021

Community	Applicant	Event	Amount Requested	Eligible	New	Recommended Amount	Previous Year	
Alix	Village of Alix Recreation	Canada Day 2021	\$ 1,500	Y	N	\$ 539	\$ 539	
Bentley	Bentley & District Ag Society	Bentley Fair and Rodeo				-	\$ 359	Carry over 2020
Blackfalds	Town of Blackfalds	Blackfalds Day	\$ 7,594	Y	N	8,171	\$ 8,171	
Clive	Village of Clive	Clive Funfest				-	\$ 1,077	Carry over 2020
Eckville	Town of Eckville	Eckville Canada Day	\$ 1,000	Y	N	1,077	\$ 1,077	
Lacombe	City of Lacombe Arts Endowment Fund	Art in the Park	\$ 2,000	Y	N	500	\$ 500	
Lacombe	Lacombe Days Association	Lacombe Days	\$ 9,000	Y	N	9,000	\$ 9,786	
Lacombe County	Forshee Ladies Community Club	100th Anniversary				-	\$ 900	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Mirror & District Community Develop Assoc.	May Day Event					\$ 910	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Mirror Recreation Society	Easter/Spring Celebration				-	\$ 910	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Mirror Recreation Society	Children's Halloween Party & Haunted House				-	\$ 640	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Mirror Recreation Society	Christmas Celebration (Santa Day)				-	\$ 1,020	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Mirror District Skating Rink Society	Family Day, Canada Day, New Years					\$ 1,010	Carry over 2020
Lacombe County	Tees Agricultural Society	Spring Chilli Cook-off and Bingo	\$ 300	Y	N	275	\$ 275	
Lacombe County	Tees Agricultural Society	Christmas Concert and Carol Festival	\$ 275	Y	N	275	\$ 275	
Lacombe County	Birch Bay Community Association	Family Day, July 1st fireworks, Beach Day BBQ	\$ 1,780	Y	N	1,115	\$ 1,115	
SV of Half Moon Bay	SV of Half Moon Bay	July 1st Fireworks				-	\$ 539	Carry over 2020
SV of Sunbreaker Cove	SV of Sunbreaker Cove	Sunbreaker Cove Regatta	\$ -			-	\$ 539	Carry over 2020
SV of Birchcliff	SV of Birchcliff	Summer Celebration	\$ -			-	\$ 539	Carry over 2020
			\$ 23,449			\$ 20,952	\$ 34,287	

Several communities had multiple applications. To ensure all eligible projects received some level of funding while ensuring community allocations were not exceeded, eligible projects received only partial funding. Some communities had fewer than expected applications. Rather than allocate the funding, Administration is proposing that this funding be held in the event requests come in later in the year.

All applications received are being recommended for some form of funding for 2021, with most applications being funded at their 2020 levels.

Based on Administration's recommendation, the community allocations would be as follows:

Lacombe County RC(9) Grant Program 2021			
Community	Annual Allocation	Amount Requested	Recommended
Alix	1,077	1,500	539
Bentley	1,077	-	-
Blackfalds	8,171	7,594	8,171
Clive	1,077	-	-
Eckville	1,077	1,000	1,077
Lacombe	11,286	11,000	9,500
Lacombe County	8,347	2,355	1,665
SV of Gull Lake	539	-	-
SV of Sunbreaker Cove	539	-	-
SV of Birchcliff	539	-	-
SV of Half Moon Bay	539	-	-
	34,268	23,449	20,952



## **ALTERNATIVES:**

1. Approve the applications as recommended by Administration.
2. Approve the applications as directed by Council.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The County's 2021 operating budget includes provisions for the Policy RC(9) applications for each community.

## **LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Lacombe County Council Policy RC(9) – County Support of Community, Program, Events, Activities.
2. Municipal Government Act, RSA 2000, c M-26 (MGA)  
*Section 3 of the MGA states 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 or desirable for all or part of the municipality, and*
  - (c) *to develop and maintain safe and viable communities.*

*Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.*

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The County has taken several steps to inform the public of the RC(9) policy. First, the County advertised the 2021 grant intake in the County News in the November and December 2020, and January 2021 editions. Secondly, previous applicants are emailed during this period advising them of the deadline. All applicants are informed of Council's decision. Finally, events are often promoted in the County News in the months leading up to the day of the event.

## **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 the development of healthy relationships”.

Key Principles: 1) “Fair and Objective in our decisions and in how we treat individuals”, and 2) “Accountability for our decisions and for our actions”.

Recreation Strategy: A. Pursue more recreational opportunities.

Key Success Measures:

- Sustainability: “Current services are maintainable and provide benefits for the future, while minimizing negative impacts on the community”,
- Stakeholder Satisfaction: “Healthy relationships with neighbouring municipalities, communities and our citizens.”

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the 2021 Policy RC(9) applications as follows:

Lacombe County RC(9) Grant Program			
2021			
Community	Applicant	Event	Recommended Amount
Alix	Village of Alix Recreation	Canada Day 2021	\$ 539
Blackfalds	Town of Blackfalds	Blackfalds Day	8,171
Eckville	Town of Eckville	Eckville Canada Day	1,077
Lacombe	City of Lacombe Arts Endowment Fund	Art in the Park	500
Lacombe	Lacombe Days Association	Lacombe Days	9,000
Lacombe County	Tees Agricultural Society	Spring Chilli Cook-off and Bingo	275
Lacombe County	Tees Agricultural Society	Christmas Concert and Carol Festival	275
Lacombe County	Birch Bay Community Association	Family Day, July 1st fireworks, Beach Day BBQ	1,115
			\$ 20,952

**PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services**



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

