



AGENDA ITEM
Town of Blackfalds –
Willow Park Outdoor Rink Project
March 25, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Town of Blackfalds has submitted a RC(1) application for capital funding for the construction of the Willow Park Outdoor Rink. The project came about because the current outdoor rink was removed to accommodate the expansion of the Town's arena.

The project was carried out in 2020 with construction completed on October 15, 2020. The request has been submitted in accordance with the County's RC(1) Capital Support of Recreation & Cultural Facilities. This project occurred during the ICF negotiations between the County and Town and therefore is being submitted after completion.

A copy of the Policy RC(1) application is attached.

Action requested of Council is consideration of the Town's request.

ANALYSIS

Outdoor rinks are an eligible project under the County's RC(1) policy. In fact, the original outdoor ice surface was supported by the County through the use of donated equipment and labour time in 2009.

The rink has permanent lighting infrastructure allowing it to be used into evening hours. The rink is also used throughout the year for sports such as lacrosse, in line skating and basketball.

The total cost of the project was \$276,064 with the Town seeking 15% of the total cost or \$41,410 from the County. The Town will be paying for the balance of the project. The Town was able to minimize costs by reusing fencing and boarding from the existing facility.

The Town is basing its funding request on the 15% that is currently in the recreation operating funding agreement between the Town and County.



The last project funded by the County in Blackfalds was the Arena/library expansion in 2020. The County provided just under 12% in funding based on estimates of historic usership for both facilities. As this project is coming about due to the construction of this new facility, it is reasonable to extend funding based on this allocation formula.

The ICF agreement between the Town and County states that funding for capital projects would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve funding of \$41,410 as requested.
2. Approve funding of \$33,128. (Administration Recommendation)
3. Deny the request.
4. Approve funding in an amount as determined by Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This request is not in the 2021 County operating budget. Should Council support this request funding would be provided through the County's Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

The projected 2021-year end balance of the reserve, including projects approved to January 21, 2021 is \$2,782,592.

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Lacombe County Policy RC(1) - Capital Support of Recreation and Cultural Facilities.
2. 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.
3. Section 180(1) of the MGA states that Council may act only by resolution or bylaw.
4. Section 248(1)(a) of the MGA states that a municipality may only make an expenditure that is included in an operating budget, interim operating budget or capital budget unless otherwise authorized by Council.



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: “Building 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”.

Resource and Asset Management Strategy: “To manage the natural, financial and physical assets of the County in order to obtain maximum value from all of these resources”.

Key Success Measures – Sustainability: “Current services are maintainable and provide benefits for the future, while minimizing negative impacts on the community”, and “Shared sense of identity, regardless of municipal boundaries”.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the following resolution:

The Lacombe County contribute \$33,128 to the Town of Blackfalds Willow Park Outdoor Rink Project, and that this contribution be funded from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager