



AGENDA ITEM

Town of Blackfalds – Abbey Centre Fitness Equipment Replacement Project

March 25, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Town of Blackfalds has submitted a RC(1) application for funding for the replacement of the Abbey Centre's fitness equipment. Specifically, the Town is seeking funding to offset the cost of replacing the Centre's cardio equipment.

The project is part of the Town's multi year capital plan with replacement of the equipment planned on a five to sixth year schedule. The equipment in question is now in its sixth year and is now reaching the end of its useful life.

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

The Abbey Centre is an eligible facility and the County provided funding toward the construction of the Centre in 2012, providing \$2.25 million in funding or 15% of project cost. The County has not provided any funding for projects at the Abbey Centre since it was constructed.

The total cost of the equipment replacement is \$341,393 (net of disposals) and the Town is seeking 15% of the total net cost or \$51,208 from the County while the Town will fund the balance. The equipment in question is the cardio equipment at the fitness centre in the Abbey Centre. This includes items such as tread mills, recumbent bikes, training cycles, stair climbers, and various weight-based equipment.

Historically, County usership for the facility has ranged in the 7.5% to 9% and operating funding from the County has been based on this figure.



The County currently provides operating support at 15% of net operating deficit based on the new funding agreement between the parties. The ICF agreement between the Town and County states that funding for capital projects would be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Following Council approval of RC(1) funding requests in other communities, Administration is supportive of this project at the 9% funding rate.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve funding of \$51,208 as requested.
2. Approve funding at historical usership rates of 9% or \$30,725. (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 \$30,725 to the Town of Blackfalds Abbey Centre Fitness Equipment Replacement Project, and that this contribution be funded from the Recreation Capital Assistance Reserve.

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