



AGENDA ITEM

Alix Cemetery Expansion

May 13, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Village of Alix has submitted a letter to the County seeking cost sharing on a proposed expansion to the Village's Cemetery. The proposed expansion would be the beginning of Phase 3 of the cemetery and would involve site preparation and the installation of a concrete ribbon.

The total length of the new ribbon will be dependent on the cost for site preparation. The new concrete ribbon will be like the existing ribbons in the cemetery. Cemetery plaques and headstones are mounted on these ribbons to ensure stability and consistency in the placement of these markers. These ribbons also reduce the risk of settling grave markers and lowers maintenance and operational costs for things such as grass cutting.

The cemetery currently has 21 full burial plots available which represents just over 2 ½ years worth of supply. The full build out for phase 3 would include 75 full plots. The plots can handle both burials and cremains.

The proposed budget is \$20,000 and the Village is seeking \$10,000 from the County.

Action requested of Council is consideration of this request.

ANALYSIS

As there have been very few requests for County support of cemetery development, expansion and upgrading projects in the past there has not been a need to develop a formal policy to address them. As such, the cemetery projects that the County has recently funded were considered on an individual basis.

These projects are as follows:

- 2007 – contribution of \$7,090 towards improvement and land acquisition at the Gilby-Kalmu Cemetery.
- 2008 – contribution of \$37,718 towards upgrades (fencing) at the Blackfalds Cemetery. This contribution represented approximately 47% of the total cost of the project and was based on the ratio of burials of Lacombe County/Town of Blackfalds resident burials in the cemetery over



the previous six-year period.

- 2008 – provision of 7.74 acres of land (former CN Rail right-of-way) to the Town of Eckville for expansion of their cemetery. Lacombe County paid \$1,000 per acre for the Alberta Central West Rail Line.
- 2010 – contribution of \$100,540 towards Phase 1 of the Lacombe Fairview Cemetery expansion project. This project involved expanding the cemetery further east, as well as extending the brick fence, placing plants on the north, east and west sides of the cemetery, land survey, road construction and plot development work. The County's contribution represented 50% of the total project cost.
- 2011 contribution of \$7,725 towards the Clive Cemetery Tree Planting project. The total estimated cost of the project was \$15,050.
- 2013 – contribution of \$4,085 for the completion of the legal survey for the expansion of the Gilby-Kalmu Cemetery.
- 2019 – contribution of in-kind labour, equipment, and materials in the amount \$20,207 to the Tees Cemetery Expansion project.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the amount as requested.
2. Deny the request.
3. Provide different direction to Administration.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If Council were to approve this request in the estimated amount of \$10,000 the monies could be drawn from the Cemetery Development Reserve which has a projected December 31, 2020 balance of \$344,360.

This amount has been included in the 2021 Budget amendment currently before Council.

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.

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



Section 248(1)(a) of the Municipal Government Act 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.

Lacombe County Financial Reserves Policy AD(30) outlines the purpose of the Cemetery Development Reserve.

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: Administration will inform the public and the Village of Alix of Council's decision.

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".

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 \$10,000 in funding towards the Alix Cemetery Expansion Project, and further, that the contribution be funded from the Cemetery Development Reserve.

PREPARED BY: Michael Minchin, Director of Corporate Services

REVIEWED BY: Tim Timmons, County Manager