



Date: 16/03/2023

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: Brian Carruthers, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

From: Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Mar24_2023

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Short Summary:

Allocation of the Growing Communities Fund

Voting:

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

Memorandum:

As the Board is aware the Province announced that it was providing one-time funding to local governments through the Growing Communities Fund (GCF). The Cariboo Regional District allocation has been announced at \$ 3,947,000 which is to be deposited to our account sometime in March.

The letter from Minister Kang states that “The principal objective of the GCF is to increase the local housing supply with investments in community infrastructures and amenities. However, she further goes on to say that “The funding provided through GCF *should be* limited to one-off costs needed to build required infrastructure and amenities rather than funding ongoing operational activities.”

Similar to the Covid Smart Restart funds, the CRD will be required to report how we allocated the funds and the remaining balance at yearend in our Financial Statements. The Government is anticipating that we will have spent the funds within the next 5 years.

In preparation for the receipt of this money Staff has compiled the following list of projects that they would like to see the funds allocated to:

Information Technology:

\$ 175,000

Improved network infrastructure, enhanced firewalls and upgrading of core servers

Airports

\$ 1,450,000

Contribution to the South Cariboo Airport Service for the runway overlay project. The resurfacing of the runway is vital to maintain the viability of the airport. This funding will

complement previously allocated Community Works Funds of \$ 1,500,000 and reserves built up for specifically for this project.

Water and Sewer Utilities:

\$ 1,449,500

Alexis Creek Water System requires an additional well source to augment the existing well in the event of well failure. Also, the pumphouse and components are old and should be replaced as part of the project.

TRUE Consulting	\$130,000
Western Water Associates	\$22,000
Exceed Electrical Eng	\$38,000
Well Driller	\$70,000
Pumphouse Construction	\$600,000
Contingency 15%	\$130,000
TOTAL ESTIMATE	\$990,000

Lac La Hache Water System requires an additional well source to augment the Community Well located on the LLH Community Club property. The pumphouse and components are old and should be replaced as part of the project. The scope is the same as the Alexis creek project.

Community Works funds have previously been allocated in the amounts of \$ 205,500 for Lac La Hache and \$ 325,000 for Alexis Creek.

Without the Growing Communities Funds these services will need to take on a substantial amount of debt to finance the necessary improvements resulting in substantial increases in utility fees to service the debt or defer the projects to a future date.

CRD Williams Lake Building Renovations:

\$ 500,000

As currently configured, there is a lack of available workspace for recently hired staff and any future hires. The plan is to renovate the office so that currently idle space is converted to useable office space.

As well as the renovation, this ask includes all the furniture and fixtures that will be required as a result of the floor space realignment. Insufficient reserves exist to fund this project and without the allocation will not go ahead.

Also, included in the request is an allocation for the purchase of asset management software of \$ 50,000.

Administration Support

\$ 350,000

Coming out of the pandemic the Administration functions have experienced many one-off expenses and continue to do so. These expenses are hard to anticipate and even harder to budget for. Without this allocation the budget impacts will have to be absorbed through requisition increases.

Attachments:

- 1) March 16th letter from Minister Kang, Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- 2) Growing Communities Fund allocations by Regional District and Municipality

Financial Implications:

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Policy Implications:

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Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☒ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☐ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☒ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

1. Receipt;
2. Receipt and endorse the recommendation.

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, dated March 16, 2023, regarding the allocation of monies received through the Growing Communities Fund, be received. Further, that the monies received through the Growing Communities Fund be allocated as detailed in the above memorandum and summarized below:

Information Technology:	\$ 175,000
Airports:	\$ 1,450,000
Water and Sewer Utilities:	\$ 1,449,500
CRD Williams Lake Building Renovations:	\$ 500,000
Administration Support:	\$ 350,000