

Date: 25/08/2023

To: Chair and Directors, Committee of the Whole

And To: Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy CAO

From: Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer

Date of Meeting: Committee of the Whole_Sep07_2023

File: 1855-20

Short Summary:

Discussion of the Allocation of the Remaining Growing Communities Funds

Background:

At the July 13th, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, the committee passed the following resolution:

That the memorandum from Lore Schick, Deputy Corporate Officer/Executive Assistant dated July 7, 2023, regarding the Allocation of remaining Growing Communities Fund, be received. Further, that staff bring forward a report to the September 7, 2023, Committee of the Whole meeting, prioritizing projects that the remaining Growing Communities Fund allocation could be used for.

Unfortunately, due to competing preferences, staff is unable to reach any consensus as to prioritization of projects. As such, previously identified items and their rationalizations are being brought back before the committee for discussion. Also, subsequent to the last Committee of the Whole meeting three new requests for funds have been received and are included here for your consideration.

There are \$ 1,017,500 in unallocated Growing Community Funds available.

Previously identified uses:

Information Technology Enhancements to the CRD's main network \$ 175,000

This request came from the IT Department to fund improved firewalls and upgrading of our core servers to increase the security of our network.

Asset Management Software \$ 150,000

Asset Management has been identified in the strategic plan as a primary goal of the Board. Staff is limited in progressing on this front as we do not have the software

necessary to move forward. \$ 150,000 is being requested for the purchase of suitable software, it's implementation and training in its use.

Williams Lake Building Renovations

\$ 350,000

The addition of new positions has used up all available workspace at the Williams Lake Office. While there is space available it is not currently conducive to providing a productive work environment. Without the allocation of these funds, reorganization will have to take place piecemeal as and when budget allows.

Administration Support

\$ 350,000

The Administration functions have had to absorb many one-off expenses and continue to do so. These expenses couldn't be anticipated and thus adequately budgeted for. Without this allocation the services will have to be absorbed by the operating budgets over time through increases in taxation.

Subsequently Identified Uses:

Skating Rink Roof Project at the Bouchie Lake Hall

\$ 500,000

Director Bachmeier brought forward this request. As she mentions, the roof project will make maintaining the ice easier in the winter and provide a shaded area for events in the summer. Director Bachmeier's email has been attached for further information on this request.

Reconfiguration of the CRD Boardroom

Unknown

Alice Johnston has suggested that some remaining funds be used to reconfigure the Boardroom including replacing the main table and enhance and improve upon the audio-visual equipment that will provide better quality sound and video replay. This request aligns with the strategic plan in that it has the potential to raise the profile of the CRD in so much as having quality recordings of Board meetings could allow their posting on the CRD Website showcasing what the Board does and raising the level of public awareness.

Contribution to the future upgrade of the Red Bluff Firehall

\$ 400,000

The Red Bluff Firehall is due for some significant renovations and Director Sjostrom has made a request for an allocation towards this project. No firm cost has been established yet, but architectural drawings are being created to take the project out for a Class C Estimate. The funding is being sought to reduce.

Restore CRD Road Signage in the North Cariboo

Unknown

The sign was knocked down a few years ago and is now being stored in the storage yard at the Red Bluff Sewer. Preliminary enquiries were made into the costs of restoring the sign, but no firm pricing has been attained to date.

Attachments:

1. Email from Director Bachmeier – July 14, 2023
2. Email from Director Sjostrom – August 2, 2023
3. Emails from Alice Johnston, Manager of Corporate Services – August 1, 2023

Receipt Only:

That the memorandum from Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, dated August 25, 2023, regarding the allocation of the remaining Growing Communities Fund, be received.