

REPORT

Council

Meeting Date: February 28, 2022

FROM: Finance Department

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: Grant Funding and Capital Projects

LOCATION:

WARD: Town-wide

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the staff report dated February 22, 2022, entitled *Grant Funding and Capital Projects* from the Finance department, be received.
2. That new capital projects for the Corporate Enterprise Payment Strategy Review (\$101,760) and the Property and Land Development Service Digital Plan Review (\$152,640) be added to the 2022 budget to be financed from provincial grants.
3. That the 2022 budget be amended to replace \$230,000 in capital reserve funding with \$234,048 in provincial grant funding in projects 21112202 Data Management and 53112203 Development Engineering Permit Process Review.
4. That a new capital project for Multi-Use Trail Upper Middle Road be added to the 2022 budget in the amount of \$700,000 to be funded from federal grants (\$525,000) and capital reserve (\$175,000).
5. That the 2022 budget be amended to add \$86,800 in federal grant funding to project 52212106 Basketball Court-North Oakville, and to replace \$656,250 in development charge funding and \$750,000 in cash-in-lieu of parkland funding with \$1,406,250 in federal grant funding for projects 52212102 North Park Sports Park-South parcel and 52212007 Wallace Park Redevelopment.
6. That a new capital project for Building Information Modelling be added to the 2022 budget in the amount of \$201,000 to be financed from the Building Enterprise Reserve.

KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- In 2021, the Ontario government launched a third intake of the Audit and Accountability Fund. Staff recently received approval for \$488,448 in provincial grant funding. This funding will be applied to four projects that will result in independent third party reviews with recommendations for improved digital modernization, service integration, and streamlined development approvals.
- In 2021, the Federal government launched the Canada Community Revitalization Fund. Staff recently received approval for \$2,018,050 in federal grant funding. This grant will provide 68% of the capital funding required for the construction of an all season sport court at George Savage Park, a cricket pitch at North Park, a new washroom building at Wallace Park, and multi-use trail improvements along Upper Middle Road between Sixth Line and Joshuas Creek Drive.
- Staff are requesting approval for a new capital project to participate in a pilot project known as Building Information Modelling (BIM).

BACKGROUND:

Audit and Accountability Fund

The town was successful in the third round of provincial funding under the Audit and Accountability Fund (AAF). A total of \$488,448 in grant funding has been approved for the cost of independent third party reviews for the following projects:

- Property and Land Development Service Digital Plan Review (\$152,640)
- Development Engineering and Permit Process Review (\$152,640)
- Corporate Enterprise Payment Strategy Review (\$101,760)
- Corporate Data Management Strategy Review (\$81,408)

These projects fit the priority areas identified by the province, and are expected to result in recommendations for digital modernization, service integration, and streamlined development approvals. Final reports with specific actionable recommendations for cost savings and efficiencies are to be complete by February 1, 2023.

Canada Community Revitalization Fund

The town was successful in obtaining federal funding through the Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF). The objectives of the fund are to adapt community spaces and assets so that they may be used safely, and to build or improve community infrastructure to encourage residents to re-engage in and

explore their communities. A total of \$2,018,050 in grant funding has been approved for the following projects:

- All Season Sport Court at George Savage Park (\$86,800)
- Cricket Pitch at North Park (\$656,250)
- Wallace Park Washroom (\$750,000)
- Multi-Use Trail along Upper Middle Road (\$525,000)

These projects meet the funding objectives of the program and result in new infrastructure for the community. All approved projects should be complete by March 31, 2023.

Building Information Modelling

Building Information Modelling (BIM) is a virtual model of a building that includes all the elements of a building in their actual location. There is no need to flip between drawings to locate each element or to read a specification document to understand the technical details of an element to determine compliance. The required information is all embedded in the model. The opportunity for the Building Services team is to learn how to conduct business in a virtual BIM world.

COMMENT/OPTIONS:

Audit and Accountability Fund

The provincial funding through AAF will provide 100% of the costs for the independent third party reviews. As a result of approval, and in accordance with the Financial Control Policy, the following amendments to the capital budget are recommended:

- Two projects receiving grant approval already existed in the 2022 capital budget. These projects will be refinanced from capital reserves to provincial grant funding:
 - \$81,408 for Corporate Data Management Strategy Review. The Strategic Initiatives program is the lead and expected project outcomes are modernization.
 - \$152,640 for Development Engineering and Permit Process. The Transportation and Engineering program is the lead and project outcomes are streamlined processes.
- Two projects receiving grant approval were not included in the 2022 capital budget. Council approval is required to establish two new projects to be financed by provincial grant funding of:
 - \$101,760 for Corporate Enterprise Payment Strategy Review. The Strategic Initiatives program is the lead and expected project outcomes are service integration and modernization.

- \$152,640 for Property and Land Development Service Digital Plan Review. The Strategic Business Services program is the lead and expected project outcomes are modernization and streamlined processes.

Canada Community Revitalization Fund

The federal grant funding through CCRF provides between 49% and 75% of the total costs for the approved projects. As a result of approval, and in accordance with the Financial Control Policy, the following amendments to the capital budget are recommended:

- Two projects receiving grant approval already existed in the 2022 capital budget. The federal grant share of these projects will be refinanced as follows:
 - \$656,250 for the North Park Sports Park – South Parcel will be refinanced from development charges to federal grants. The grant funding will provide 75% of the total costs of the cricket pitch.
 - \$750,000 for the Wallace Park Redevelopment will be refinanced from cash-in-lieu of parkland funds to federal grants. The grant funding will provide 63% of the total costs of the washroom.
- Two projects receiving grant approval require additional capital budget funding as follows:
 - \$86,800 in additional funding for the All Season Sport Court at George Savage Park. This approved project already includes \$90,000 in funding for a basketball court, and the additional \$86,800 in federal grant funding will provide 49% of funding for the all season sport court.
 - \$700,000 in additional funding for the Multi-Use Trail improvements along Upper Middle Road between Sixth Line and Joshuas Creek Drive. A new capital project is required, with \$525,000 in federal grant funding (75%) and \$175,000 in funding from capital reserve.

Building Information Modelling

Building Services has an opportunity to participate in a pilot project that will allow an application to be made using the most current technology known as Building Information Modelling (BIM). BIM is a virtual model of a building that includes all the elements of a building in their actual location. There is no need to flip between drawings to locate each element or to read a specification document to understand the technical details of an element to determine compliance. The required information is all embedded in the model. The opportunity for the Building Services team is to learn how to conduct business in a virtual BIM world. The examiners will learn how to review for compliance referencing a complete model as if they were conducting an inspection of the actual building. Staff will understand the challenges to navigate in the 3D world without relying on the traditional 2D documents. These

unknowns exist in both in our technology and our human resources. Understanding these challenges will allow us to make better decisions and set the appropriate direction to get us ready for the new technology. Being ready to accept information in the format in which it was created will allow for a more streamlined and faster approvals process and be leaders in help creating data standards.

This initiative fully supports the vision and direction of both Building Services and Plan-it. Not only will this pilot help us move closer to our digital goal, it will also allow us to explore opportunities that extend well beyond Building Services, allow us to maximize the opportunities being explored using the modernization funds released by the Province, and experience a piece of the future and plan accordingly. Staff recommend that a new capital project for \$201,000 be added to the 2022 budget and financed from the Building Enterprise Reserve.

CONSIDERATIONS:**(A) PUBLIC**

N/A

(B) FINANCIAL

Leveraging grant funding for capital projects contributes to fiscal sustainability. The recommendations within this report are in accordance with the Financial Control Policy.

(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS

Various departments will be involved in the delivery of the capital projects in this report.

(D) CORPORATE STRATEGIC GOALS

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal(s) to:
Be fiscally sustainable

(E) CLIMATE CHANGE/ACTION

N/A

APPENDICES:

N/A

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