

Memorandum

To: Lisa Spitale,
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: December 4, 2023

From: Denise A Tambellini Manager
Intergovernmental Relations

File:

Subject: Aggressively Pursuing Senior Government Grant Funding Opportunities to Resource the Implementation of the Strategic Plan – Impacts if Funding were Reduced

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to outline potential funding from senior levels of government for 2024 and the need for an Intergovernmental Relations Assistant.

BACKGROUND

A. Senior Government Funding

There are numerous federal and provincial programs available for municipal governments to advance local priorities. From 2020 to 2023, the City and its partners have secured approximately **\$82,906,912** from senior levels of government.

The upcoming year will be an opportunity to advance several key municipal projects based on the funding priorities of senior levels of government. The 2024 Provincial and 2025 Federal elections may be an opportunity to advance priorities ahead of key announcement by each government.

As is usual practice, the city and its partners submit projects on an ongoing basis to senior governments for funding consideration. Projects valued at approximately **\$83,549,100**, are currently being evaluated by senior governments (attachment 1).

As with any submission to senior levels of government, there is no guarantee the city will be successful. Timing of city projects must align with calls for submissions from senior governments. Municipal projects must be funding ready (all prerequisites completed including feasibility studies and suitable design completed) ahead of funding announcements and the city must be willing to wait for government contracts to be signed prior to project spending. The city will continue to work with senior governments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the number of funding grants coming to the city (and its partners), there is a need to capture submissions, plans and government contracts in one centralized location so our financial and contractual agreements have fulsome oversight. It is essential that project funding received is maximized and the full amount granted by senior



governments is spent by the city. A centralized and accessible location for funding submissions creates organizational history and knowledge regarding the many interfaces between senior levels of government and various funding programs. This in turn helps with advocacy plans. In order to meet the increased administrative demand, Intergovernmental Relations has established a streamlined, online system accessible to all departments, to coordinate all funding programs through a software program named Grant Hub. Costs/management of this program are from within existing city budgets.

In order to meet increased administrative demand due to an increased number of funding submissions, Intergovernmental Relations is requesting a full time Intergovernmental Relations Assistant. Current support for this area is provided by auxiliary staff and a budget transfer is being proposed to help offset the cost. The net impact after the budget transfer is approximately \$54K. Based on the return on investment through grant funding and the often confidential and competitive nature of the submissions, it is recommended this position be regular full time.

The impact of not funding the Intergovernmental Relations Assistant

The City is trying to maximize revenue received from senior levels of government to offset city capital costs and program priorities. The impact of not receiving funding for this position includes the following:

- With an increase in the number of funding agreements received by the city, there are also corresponding contractual and administrative responsibilities required. Limited support will increase the risk of the city not following contractual agreements, including support for senior government announcements, branding and ensuring funding received is actually spent. Errors may affect the reputation of the city with senior levels of government and even leave funding received unspent. This may impact the success of the city receiving future grant funding.
- Research on finding grant funding across several levels of government and alignment with the current capital program will continue to be limited.
- Maintenance of grant database to serve the city will continue to be limited.
- Accessing grant funding may not be maximized and the city may miss out on key opportunities. Funding submissions may not be successful.

Upcoming Potential City Projects to Submit for Senior Government Funding

Projects currently being considered for submission to senior government programs in 2024 include:

1. Sapperton District Energy Phase 1
2. Active Transportation Strategic Plan build out (Federal)
3. Massey Theatre – Energy Audit, accessibility and capital
4. Various Affordable Housing Projects (including federal matching funding)
5. Electrical Grid Expansion
6. Disaster Mitigation projects - various

Attachment 1: Projects currently being evaluated by senior governments (November 2023)

Project	Federal	Provincial	Other	Fund
Emergency Support Services		\$20,000		UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)
Climate Adaptation for Extreme Heat - Urban Reforestation In High Risk Areas	\$446,800			Infrastructure Canada Disaster Mitigation Adaptation Fund (DMAF) Application submitted
Climate Adaptation for Extreme Heat - Urban Reforestation In High Risk Areas		\$1,005,300		UBCM CEPF –DRR-CA
Road Improvement Agreement			\$13,000	Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC)
Pavement Rehabilitation Funding Allocation			\$550,000	TransLink
2023 UBCM AM Planning Grant Program- 2024 Pavement Condition Assessment		\$25,000		Union Of Municipalities (UBCM)
BC Active Transportation Network Plan and Infrastructure		\$500,000		Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI)
Accessibility Upgrades NRPD			\$9,000	The Social Planning and Research Council of B.C. (SPARC)
Housing Accelerator Fund	\$13,000,000			CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund
Supportive Housing Project	\$3,000,000	\$8,000,000		BC Housing Supportive Housing Fund CMHC Co-investment Funding
Nightly Shelter (estimate)		15,000,000		BC Housing
Affordable Housing Project	\$16,800,000	\$25,200,000		BC Housing Community Housing Fund CMHC Co-investment Funding
TOTALS	Federal \$33,246,800	Provincial \$49,730,300	Other \$572,000	Total \$83,549,100