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Report 2024-144

Report Title: Community Grant Policy

Committee Name: Finance and Audit

Committee Meeting Date: November 5, 2024

Prepared by: Matthew Nitsch
Director of Finance/Treasurer
Finance

Reviewed by: Darrell Mast
Municipal Solicitor
Legal Services

Approved by: Jennifer Moore, CAO

Council Meeting Date: November 20, 2024

Strategic Plan Priorities: ☐ Innovate for Service Excellence
☒ Ignite Economic Opportunity
☒ Foster a Thriving Community
☐ Propel Sustainable Growth
☒ Champion a Vibrant Future

Recommendation

“That the Finance and Audit Committee, having considered Report 2024-144 ‘Community Grant Policy’, recommend that County Council adopt the Community Grant Policy at the November 20, 2024 County Council meeting; and

Further That the committee recommend that County Council direct staff to develop the necessary procedures to accompany and implement the Community Grant Policy.”

Purpose

To outline a new Community Grant Policy that will address requests from eligible organizations/groups for financial support and seek Council approval to adopt the policy.

Background

Historically, Northumberland County has not received very many requests for community grants. The grant requests that have been received have been reviewed and responded to by County Council on a case-by-case basis.

On June 19, 2024 council passed resolution 2024-06-19-438 directing staff to bring forward a draft Community Grant Policy to a future meeting of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting for consideration.

Consultations

A review of community grant policies adopted by other municipalities was conducted in advance of writing the Northumberland policy. Some elements of those policies have been included in the draft policy.

Legislative Authority / Risk Considerations

Pursuant to Section 107 of the Municipal Act, 2001 Council has the legislative authority to provide grants as follows:

“Despite any provision of this or any Act relating to the giving of grants or aid by a municipality, subject to Section 106, a municipality may make grants, on such terms as to security and otherwise as the Council considers appropriate, to any person, group or body, including a fund, within or outside the boundaries of the municipality for any purpose that Council considers to be in the interests of the municipality.”

Discussion / Options

The draft community grant policy outlines the scope of the proposed program, fundamental principles as well as eligibility and ineligibility for community grants. If the policy is approved by council, staff will need to establish the procedures to accompany and implement the policy.

Financial Impact

Community grants are not a mandatory expenditure for Northumberland County, but they may assist charities, non-profits, and community organizations that undertake activities that support the strategic direction and values of Northumberland County.

Any funds allocated to community grants will reduce the amount available for mandatory programs.

Member Municipality Impacts

A Northumberland Community Grant Policy does not have a direct impact on member municipalities. Some of the Northumberland member municipalities have their own community grant policies and procedures.

Conclusion / Outcomes

It is recommended that the Finance and Audit committee recommend that County Council adopt the Community Grant Policy at the November 20, 2024 County Council meeting and that the committee recommend that County Council direct staff to develop the necessary procedures to accompany and implement the Community Grant Policy.

Attachments

1. Report 2024-144 ATTACH 1 'Northumberland County Community Grant Policy (Draft)'
2. Report 2024-144 ATTACH 2 'Council Resolution 2024-06-19-438'