

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 21, 2019

AUTHORED BY LAURA MERCER, ACTING DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT NANAIMO & DISTRICT BC SPCA GRANT APPLICATION

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with options for funding the \$25,000 grant request for the Nanaimo & District BC SPCA.

Recommendation

That Council provide direction to Staff regarding the Nanaimo and District BC SPCA \$25,000 grant request.

BACKGROUND

The Nanaimo & District BC SPCA operates the Spay Neuter Program (SNIP) that offers financial help for low-income cat guardians. The purpose of the program is to reduce cat overpopulation within the Nanaimo and district area. Approximately every two (2) years the organization has approached the City for a grant to help fund this program. In the past, the grants have been funded from Council contingency. The last grant from the City was in 2015. There is no specific line item in the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan to fund this program.

In 2014, the City gave the organization a capital grant of \$150,000 to help fund their new facility at 154 Westwood Road. This amount was paid over three (3) years at \$50,000 per year. The 2014 amount was funding from Council Contingency while the 2015 and 2016 amounts were funded from general taxation.

Requests for funding are normally channeled through a grant application process that evaluates requests against similar non-profit organizations. In the past, these grant requests came through the Other Grant stream of the Grants Advisory Committee. In 2015, the Committee felt that the SNIP program was an ongoing operational program and that the intent of the Other Grant was not to fund general operations. Alternatively, the Committee recommended that the \$25,000 be funded from Council Contingency and Council endorse the recommendation.

The history of grants given to the Nanaimo & District BC SPCA:

Year	Amount	Description
2005	\$15,000	SNIP Grant
2007	\$15,000	SNIP Grant
2009	\$15,000	SNIP Grant
2011	\$15,000	SNIP Grant
2013	\$25,000	SNIP Grant
2014	\$50,000	Capital Grant – Funding for new building
2015	\$25,000	SNIP Grant
	\$50,000	Capital Grant – Funding for new building
2016	\$50,000	Capital Grant – Funding for new building

DISCUSSION

At the 2018-DEC-12 Special Council meeting, the Nanaimo & District BC SPCA came before Council asking for a \$25,000 grant for the SNIP program. They have run out of funding for the program and are looking for another \$25,000 grant to continue operations for two plus (2+) years. Branch manager, Leon Davis, appeared before Council to speak in support of the request. Council requested a Staff report on the issue.

Council may wish to consider developing a policy that provides direction and expectations for responding to requests from non-profit organizations for financial support outside of the current grant programs. This will ensure requests are evaluated in a fair and equitable manner and provide clear guidelines to both non-profit organizations and staff. As part of the policy development funding sources for requests should be considered.

Sources of funding for the Nanaimo & District BC SPCA request:

Council Contingency

In the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan, Council has a Contingency budget of \$100,000 per year. This budget amount has been consistent for the last several years.

General Taxation

The grant request could be funded from general taxation. If Council chose to fund the grant request with taxation, the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan would be amended to include this increase.

Strategic Infrastructure Reserve

Council could fund a one-time operating grant from the Strategic Infrastructure Reserve. Staff does not recommend funding an annual operating grant from the reserve.

At this time, Council has four (4) options:

1. Approve a one time grant funded from Council Contingency;
2. Approve the grant over 2 years (2019 and 2020) at \$12,500 per year funded from general taxation;
3. Approve an annual operating grant of \$10,000 per year and fund it from general taxation; or,
4. Deny the grant.

OPTIONS

1. Approve a one time grant funded from Council Contingency
 - **Budget Implication:** No taxation increase need as \$100,000 for Council Contingency is already included in the 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan. Council will only have \$75,000 in contingency for the remainder of 2019.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Encourages social equity by helping to reduce the effect of poverty for low-income cat guardians.
2. Approve the grant over 2 years (2019 and 2020) at \$12,500 per year funded from general taxation
 - **Budget Implication:** Increase to 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan of \$25,000; approximately 0.01% increase in 2019.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Encourages social equity by helping to reduce the effect of poverty for low-income cat guardians.
3. Approve an annual operating grant of \$10,000 per year and fund it from general taxation
 - **Budget Implication:** Increase to 2019 – 2023 Financial Plan of \$50,000 over 5 years; approximately 0.01% increase in 2019.
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Encourages social equity by helping to reduce the effect of poverty for low-income cat guardians.
 - **Political Implication:** Giving an ongoing annual grant to a single organization can create inequity; Council could be inviting every non-profit organization to come before them requesting annual operational grants.
 - **Other Considerations:** Council may wish to consider an operating agreement with the BC SPCA with annual reporting requirements to ensure this grant achieves specific required outcomes.
4. Deny the grant
 - **Strategic Priorities Implication:** Does not encourage social equity by helping to reduce the effect of poverty for low income cat guardians.

SUMMARY POINTS

- At the 2018-DEC-12 Special Council meeting, the Nanaimo & District BC SPCA came before Council asking for a \$25,000 grant for the Spay Neuter Program (SNIP) program.
- In the past, requested BC SPCA SNIP grants have been funded from Council contingency.
- The last SNIP grant from the City was in 2015.
- Council has four (4) options regarding the grant request:
 1. Approve a one time grant funded from Council Contingency;
 2. Approve the grant request over 2 years (2019 and 2020) at \$12,500 per year funded from general taxation;
 3. Approve an ongoing operating grant of \$10,000 per year and fund it from general taxation; or,
 4. Deny the grant.

Submitted by:

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