

DATE OF MEETING APRIL 20, 2022

AUTHORED BY MIKE BRYSON, MANAGER, RECREATION FACILITIES AND
CUSTODIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT **SOUND SYSTEM - OLIVER WOODS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide information to the Finance and Audit Committee regarding the request for additional funding for sound system upgrades at the Oliver Woods Community Centre.]

Recommendation

That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council increase the budget for the Oliver Woods Community Centre sound system upgrade in 2022 from \$41,001 to \$83,400 with the additional \$42,399 in funding from the Facility Development Reserve Fund.

BACKGROUND

There is a need to upgrade the sound system at the Oliver Woods Community Centre as the current system is original to the facility which was completed in 2008. The current analog system does not allow for the PA system to be divided up between individual rooms when holding meetings and exercise classes. There is a lack of flexibility and consistency that could become a safety issue in case of a need to broadcast in an emergency situation.

The sound system upgrade project was budgeted in 2018, and at that time, the project was budgeted at \$22,400 based on information and components needed at that time. The project was delayed and the budget carried forward. In 2021 the budget was increased to \$47,000.

In 2021, a consultant reviewed the sound system requirements for Oliver Woods Community Centre, Beban Park Social Centre, and Bowen Complex. Following this review, in order for the sound system to accommodate the facility's needs it will need to be replaced with digital components and have upgrades to speakers which is an increased cost in the current market.]

DISCUSSION

The Oliver Woods Community Centre is a busy and well-used facility with the rooms and gymnasiums being used by multiple groups, with some examples being:

- Nanaimo Child Development Society
- Youth sports groups
- Wheelchair Basketball
- RCMP

- Early Years programming
- Community arts programming
- Tai Chi
- Seniors Programming
- Nanaimo Hindu Cultural Society
- Life events such as: weddings, celebrations of life, birthdays, and showers

In addition, the facility has been used to support evacuees in different emergency situations.

We are seeing a higher demand for space in this facility given its' geographic location and versatility. The ability for user groups and programs to access a sound system in each space independently would be an asset to the facility and its users. |

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The total required 2022 budget for the Oliver Woods Community Centre system upgrade is \$83,400. \$5,999 was spent in 2021 on system design and an additional \$4,314 has been spent year-to-date. There is currently \$36,687 available within the existing budget. The additional \$42,399 needed to complete the project would be funded from the Facility Development Reserve Fund

OPTIONS

1. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council increase the budget for the Oliver Woods Community Centre sound system upgrade in 2022 from \$41,001 to \$83,400 with the additional \$42,399 in funding from the Facility Development Reserve Fund.
 - The advantages of this option: Providing the Oliver Woods Community Centre with an updated and enhanced sound system that can accommodate several programs at the same time. Enhanced safety if needed for broadcasting evacuation procedures throughout the facility in the event of an emergency.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None identified.
 - Financial Implications: A total of \$83,400 will need to be invested in 2022. There is \$41,001 available within the existing capital budget. The request for an additional \$42,399 will be funded from the Facility Development Reserve Fund. The 2022-2026 Financial Plan will be amended to include this change.
2. That the Finance and Audit Committee recommend that Council not approve adding \$42,399 in additional funds to the 2022 Budget for the sound system upgrade and instead leave the existing sound system in place.
 - The advantages of this option: No additional spending is required. Staff would work within the existing budget of the \$41,001.

- The disadvantages of this option are: The limited versatility of the facility and spaces the potential safety risk. Each room or space may still need to use a separate device for music or audio.
3. That the Finance and Audit Committee provide alternative direction.

SUMMARY POINTS

- There is a need to upgrade the sound system at the Oliver Woods Community Centre as the current system is outdated.
- OWCC is a well-used facility and it is important for additional facility upgrades to continue to keep it current.
- The Parks and Facility Operations has the capacity to fund \$41,001 within the existing capital budget. The request is for an additional \$42,399.
- Safety concern with unreliable components is an issue in case of a need to broadcast in an emergency situation.

Submitted by:

Mike Bryson,
Manager, Recreation Facilities and
Custodial Services

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
Director, Finance

Richard Harding
General Manager, Parks, Recreation and Culture