

DATE OF MEETING JULY 29, 2024

AUTHORED BY WENDY FULLA, DIRECTOR, FINANCE

SUBJECT 2024 – 2034 COMMUNITY WORKS FUND AGREEMENT

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To enter into an agreement with the Union of BC Municipalities for receipt of Community Works funding under the Canada Community-Building Agreement.

Recommendation

That Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Officer to sign the 2024 - 2034 Community Works Fund Agreement.

BACKGROUND

The Community Works Fund (CWF) is one of three funding streams under the Canada Community-Building Fund (CCBF) formerly known as the Gas Tax Fund. The CWF is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. The renewal of the CCBF provides a ten-year commitment of federal funding for investment in local government infrastructure and capacity building projects to March 31, 2034.

DISCUSSION

This will be the second renewal of the program under which the City began receiving funds in 2005. The current agreement expired on March 31, 2024. The new agreement extends to March 31, 2034, and allows the City to invest our annual CWF allocation in the following different capital and capacity building categories:

Productivity and Economic Growth

- Local roads and bridges
- Active transportation
- Regional and local Airports
- Broadband connectivity
- Public transit
- Short-sea shipping
- Short-line rail

Clean Environment

- Drinking water
- Wastewater

- Solid waste
- Community energy system
- Brownfield redevelopment

Strong Cities and Communities

- Sport infrastructure
- Recreation infrastructure
- Cultural infrastructure
- Fire halls & fire trucks
- Tourism infrastructure
- Resilience

Capacity Building

- Asset management
- Long-term infrastructure planning
- Integrated community sustainability planning
- Housing needs reports

Within eligible projects only eligible expenditures may be claimed, examples of ineligible expenditures include the purchase of land, leasing costs, and routine repair and maintenance costs. Ineligible expenditure infrastructure/services include:

- Education/daycare/childcare centres
- Social housing/social services – except brownfield remediation
- City halls, public works buildings and other administrative buildings
- Senior care facilities and housing
- Health infrastructure (hospitals, convalescent, and senior centres)

Annual reporting on the projects funded by the CWF is required and reporting requirements have been revised to include geolocation, standardized metrics, and standardized outcomes for each project. As well, for communities outside Metro Vancouver with a population of 30,000 or greater additional reporting requirements will now be required.

The City's funding allocation is based on a formula that combines a minimum funding floor and a per capita amount. The program is indexed every third year which sees an increase in base and per capita funding. For the first three years of the program the base funding amount is \$63,411 and the per capita amount is \$45.50/person,

The estimated funding amounts for the City for the first five years of the agreement are:

- 2024/2025 \$4,610,560
- 2025/2026 \$4,610,560
- 2026/2027 \$4,610,560
- 2027/2028 \$4,794,982
- 2028/2029 \$4,794,982

Year 1 of the agreement will be paid in two equal installments. One in August 2024, subject to the City signing and returning the new agreement, and one between November 15, 2024 and March 31, 2025. Funding received in a given year will be required to be fully spent on an eligible project within five years, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The full contract is attached for Council's review. |

OPTIONS

1. That Council authorize the Mayor and Corporate Office to sign the 2024 – 2034 Community Works Fund Agreement.
 - The advantages of this option: Provides the City with predictable and dedicated funding to support the City's 20 Year Investment Plan. CWF was included as a funding source in the 20 Year Investment Plan and calculation of the City's infrastructure funding gap.
 - The disadvantages of this option: None
 - Financial Implications: Funding from the agreement will be used to fund the 2025 – 2029 Draft Project Plan.
2. That Council table the report and request additional information from staff.
|

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City has received Community Works Funding since 2005.
- The new Community Works Funding Agreement will provide dedicated funding until March 31, 2034.
- Community Works Funding provides funding for the City to invest in local infrastructure and capacity-building priorities.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: CWF 2024 – 2034 Agreement Letter

Attachment B: 2024 – 2034 CWF Agreement |

Submitted by:

Wendy Fulla
Director, Finance |

Concurrence by:

Laura Mercer
General Manager, Corporate Services