

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

TO: Shane Bourke, City Manager	DATE: November 12, 2024
FROM: Brian Glavin, Chief Operating Officer	MEETING: Operational Services Committee
REPORT WRITER: Kase DeVries, M.Sc., Director of Environment & Parks	
SUBJECT: Climate Adaptation Plan Grant Application	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Committee recommend Council support an application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities’ Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation call for proposals to complete a Climate Adaptation Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL / COMMITTEE DIRECTIONS

BACKGROUND

A Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP) helps communities address the impacts of climate change by identifying risks and outlining strategies to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience. It includes both short and long-term actions to protect assets, infrastructure, and people from environmental changes, such as extreme weather, rising temperatures, and shifting precipitation patterns.

In 2012, City Council adopted a Climate Change Policy recognizing the potential impacts of climate change on municipal operations. The policy commits the City to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, embedding environmental responsibility into decision-making processes. Developing a CAP aligns with this policy and supports the City’s strategic goals.

A capital tax amount of \$75,000 has been included in management’s budget for 2025 with a corresponding \$75,000 in grant funding. These funds would be used to engage a consultant to develop the CAP as the total cost is typically around \$150,000.

ANALYSIS

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) is offering funding for Climate-Ready Plans and Processes through its Green Municipal Fund. This initiative supports municipalities in developing comprehensive climate adaptation strategies to address climate risks, enhance resilience, and adapt infrastructure to future climate impacts. Based on the program criteria, the City is eligible for stackable grant incentives, potentially securing a grant of up to \$89,250. To meet the application requirements, a Council motion of support is needed before the submission deadline of November 29, 2024.

Future Funding Opportunities:

Upon completion of the CAP, the City will be eligible to apply for additional funding through the FCM, including the Local Leadership for Climate Adaptation initiative's Adaptation in Action stream. This stream supports the implementation of equitable climate adaptation projects and is part of a larger eight-year, \$530 million initiative aimed at helping municipalities build climate resilience.

Relationship to City Council's Areas of Focus / Strategic Priorities

Climate Adaptation Planning ensures Quality of Life, Safety and Security for residents and visitors.

Environmental Impact

Implementing a climate adaptation plan will enhance the City's resilience to environmental changes, reducing vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable practices that protect natural resources.

Economic Impact

A climate adaptation plan is a crucial step to help prevent losses associated with climate-related damages.

Social Impact

A climate adaptation plan promotes safety and social equity by implementing measures that protect the community from climate-related hazards while enhancing overall community well-being and resilience.

Relevant Statutes / Master Plans / City Documents

Policy 116 – Climate Change

Risk

Climate adaptation plans are becoming a required element for some grants. If the City does not have a plan, we will be excluded for funding from some grants. Climate adaptation plans also reduce risks by identifying vulnerabilities and recommending targeted resilience measures that protect the community from the impacts of climate change.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement will be part of the climate adaptation plan, incorporating both internal consultations with City departments and community engagement. Specific to the grant, Administration has engaged with FCM on the application requirements, including receiving guidance that a Council motion is required as part of the grant application.

BUDGET / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Currently, \$75,000 has been requested from Capital Tax for 2025 to support the development of the Climate Adaptation Plan (CAP). With the total estimated cost of the CAP at \$150,000, securing grant funding is crucial to initiate the project.

As a northern community, and based on population metrics, the City qualifies for stackable grant incentives that could result in a potential grant of \$89,250. Combined with the City's allocated \$75,000 in capital funding, this grant would provide the necessary resources to complete the CAP.

SUMMARY / CONCLUSION

A Climate Adaptation Plan is essential for the City to effectively manage future climate change impacts and position itself for grant funding opportunities. Administration recommends that Committee recommend Council support Administration's application to the Federation of Canadian

ATTACHMENTS