

Strathcona County Heritage Foundation's Funding Request**Report Purpose**

To seek Council's approval for support for the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation for museum operations for 2018.

Recommendation

THAT a contribution of up to \$125,000 funded from the Cultural Development Fund Reserve (R12), to offset one time investment for emergent issues in 2018 at the Strathcona County Museum and fund consultant costs to develop options for sustainability of the Museum facility, be approved.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Social: The Strathcona County Heritage Foundation delivers educational programs and community events focused on the history of Strathcona County.

Culture: History and heritage are important to our community, as identified in Goal 12 of the County's Strategic Plan priorities.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: N/A

Interdepartmental: Facility Services

Summary

Strathcona County has supported the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation in various ways since its inception in 1985. Currently the facility is leased to the Foundation for \$1.00/year. Strathcona County provides annual funding of approximately \$158,000 for operating expenses, infrastructure care and maintenance, and the cost of utilities. We have also supported grant applications with matching funds over the years. The Strathcona County Heritage Foundation presentation to Priorities Committee on February 13, 2018 outlined their request for operational funding support and for Strathcona County to fund a consultant to evaluate and provide alternatives for museum services. The scope of this work will include value for service audit, public good analysis, a review of the current operation and programming, a scan of municipally supported museums from like-sized municipalities and museum best practices. Administration anticipates providing a recommendation report, with operating alternatives, to Council in the third quarter of 2018.

Facility Services has a budget in 2018 for capital infrastructure which can be used towards improving accessibility issues.

Should Council approve today's recommendation report, Administration will work with the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation pertaining to offsetting emergent funding pressures.

Communication Plan

Administration will send a letter to the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation indicating Council's support.

Enclosure

- 1 Strathcona County Heritage Foundation letter to Mayor Frank