

Annual Budget Contribution to STARS

Please provide information on how the annual budget for STARS is determined, the history of the County's contributions and usage, and provide any information available on how the County's contribution compares to neighbouring municipalities in the region and Alberta.

Strathcona County has provided a donation to STARS most years since 1996. In the earlier years the contributions were \$5,000 with an increase to \$7,500 starting in 2001 for a total of \$147,500 throughout the years. The origins of this annual donation and amount are unknown.

The annual STARS donation in Fiscal Services is reviewed by Administration each year during budget preparation and included in the Fiscal Services budget. During the 2021 budget deliberations, the STARS donation was specifically presented to Council in accordance with the Donations policy.

STARS has made presentations to Council for at least the last few years with various considerations for funding.

Ten municipalities in the region responded to our request for information regarding their annual STARS contribution as follows:

- 7 municipalities do not provide a contribution
- 1 municipality contributes \$7,500
- 1 municipality contributes \$40,000
- 1 municipality provided a one time contribution of \$50,000 in 2015

Based on the presentation from STARS on December 1, 2020, there have been 1 - 2 instances where these services have been used in Strathcona County for each of the last three years (not including Fort Saskatchewan transfers).

Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Probst at 780-464-8415 or Laura.Probst@strathcona.ca

Laura Probst, CPA, CGA, CLGM
Director, Corporate Finance