

**2021 Appointment of the External Auditor****Report Purpose**

To seek Council approval on the appointment of the external auditor for the year ending December 31, 2021.

**Recommendation**

THAT the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as the external auditor for Strathcona County for the year ending December 31, 2021 be approved.

**Our Prioritized Strategic Goals**

Governance Requirement

**Report**

The provision of external audit services is subject to annual appointment by Council. Ernst & Young LLP was the successful proponent in the 2019 Request for Proposal. The award provides an option of four annual extensions.

According to the schedule of fees provided in the Request for Proposal, Ernst & Young LLP is expecting to charge up to \$145,000 for 2021 for the following audits:

- Strathcona County Consolidated Financial Statements;
- Financial Information Return (required by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs);
- Local Authorities Pension Plan (LAPP);
- APEX Pension Plan;
- Family and Community Support Services;
- Pioneer Housing Foundation Financial Statements; and
- Strathcona County Library Financial Statements.

During the 2020 audit, the need for additional work was identified to complete an audit of the Family Resource Network Grant. This work will be added to the audits listed above and is anticipated to cost between \$3,500 to \$5,500.

Actual costs may vary depending on the actual number of hours spent on our files. The total fee proposed for 2021 is reflective of the continuing impact of the scope of the audit and audit reporting requirements. We are confident that Ernst & Young LLP will be cost effective and provide value added services this year.

**Council and Committee History**

July 21, 2020	Council approved the appointment of the external auditor for the year ending December 31, 2020.
July 23, 2019	Council appointed Ernst & Young LPP as the Strathcona County Auditors.

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** FIN-001-010: Financial Reporting

**Legislative/Legal:** Section 280 of the *Municipal Government Act*, R.S.A 2000 c. M-26 requires Council to appoint one or more auditors for the municipality.

**Interdepartmental:** Corporate Finance, Family and Community Services, Human Resources, Legislative and Legal Services and Strathcona County Library

**Master Plan/Framework:** n/a