

STARS Options for Future Funding

Report Purpose

To provide Council with a funding options for the County's STARS contribution.

Recommendation

N/A

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 5 - Foster collaboration through regional, community and governmental partnerships continuously improving the way we work, as one organization, in an agile and sustainable manner

Report

On May 10, 2022, STARS provided their annual update to Priorities Committee which included a funding request for \$25,000 per year based on rate of \$0.25 per capita. A subsequent referral was made to for administration to bring a report to Council by the end of September.

Between 2017 to 2022 Strathcona County utilized the services provided by STARS 19 times, and annual contributions have been \$7,500 during that period. Past practice has been to provide STARS funding based on the rural population of Strathcona County and omit the Hamlet of Sherwood Park as it is a dense, urban area with a community hospital.

Options

Option 1 – One-time increase to the contribution by \$17,500 (from \$7,500 to \$25,000) funded from Municipal Reserves, for 2022 only.

Option 2 – Council direct administration to include additional funding amounts for future years, as part of the 2023 budget package being prepared for Council's consideration.

Option 3 – One-time increase to the contribution by \$17,500 (from \$7,500 to \$25,000) funded from Municipal Reserves for 2022, and Council direct administration to include additional funding amounts for future years, as part of the 2023 budget package being prepared for Council's consideration.

It should be noted that if Council does not choose to provide alternative direction, then the existing budget remains, and no change is made to the \$7,500 contribution for 2022 and beyond.

Council and Committee History

May 10, 2022 Priorities Committee referred the STARS Annual Presentation to administration to prepare a report for Council's consideration by the end of September 2022 with options to increase the 2022 County financial contribution to STARS to \$25,000, with a further increase to \$200,000 per year for future years.

May 10, 2022 Priorities Committee was provided a presentation on the STARS Annual Update.

Other Impacts

Policy: FIN-001-004 Expenditure and Budget Management, FIN-001-024 Financial Reserves

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Financial/Budget: Increasing the 2022 contribution to \$25,000 would require the use of Municipal Reserves, potentially impacting the ability to fund other opportunities in the future.

Interdepartmental: n/a

Master Plan/Framework: n/a