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## MANAGEMENT REPORT

**Date:** May 8, 2023  
**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services  
**Report #:** COU23-061  
**Attachments:** 2023 Community Grants Evaluation Committee Recommendations Schedule

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**Title:** 2023 Community Grant Requests and Recommendations

**Objective:** To review recommendations of the Community Grants Evaluation Committee for awarding of 2023 grants.

**Background:** The Community Grants Evaluation Committee is tasked with providing recommendations to Council for awarding of community grants within the overall annual budget approved by Council. Committee deliberations in 2023 were guided by the City's Community Grants Policy F.1.1 adopted by Council in June 2019.

Under the Policy, a "one-time" community grant request is intended for projects or activities that can be accomplished and measured within the grant year.

A "multi-year" community grant request is intended for a specific project or activity that spans more than a one-year period. This category is not intended to provide ongoing operational funding. If approved for a multi-year grant, organizations do not need to apply again during the approved period; however, final approvals for future budget years are subject to Council's annual budget process.

2023 is the final instalment for the Rotary Hospice Stratford Perth, which the Evaluation Committee is recommending be paid in full in 2023.

The 2023 approved City budget includes the community grants program in the amount of \$401,870., broken down as follows:

<b>Type of Grant</b>	<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>Detail</b>
One-Time (Annual)	\$109,070	for 2023 grant awards
Multi-Year	252,800	for 2023 grant awards
Contingency	40,000	available for appeals and after-budget requests
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$401,870</b>	
Available Reserves	\$69,391	Unused contingency funds and prior year grants not awarded
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$471,261</b>	

The amounts noted do not include the additional \$245,000 for fee waivers, and \$20,000 set aside for Brownfield Community Improvement Plan incentives as these are captured in a separate line item within this budget /account section.

Any grant applicant wanting to appeal Council’s final decision will be allowed to present to the Finance & Labour Relations Sub-committee. Staff have included a recommendation for Committee to consider which would allow future reconsideration of any of the 2023 community grants, without formally triggering the reconsideration rules in Council’s procedural by-law.

Once Council has established its strategic priorities for the new term, the Community Grants Evaluation Committee will be reviewing the policy and bringing its recommendations to Council for updates.

**Analysis:** The Committee held two meetings in April, 2023. All applications received were reviewed, as well as any year-end reporting from all organizations who received funding in 2022. Recommendations for 2023 grant awards are summarized on the attached chart and below:

Total Grants Awarded (proposed):	\$422,932
Funds available from 2023 budget:	(\$471,261)
Remaining balance in Reserve for Contingency/Appeals:	\$48,329

Some grants contain additional requirements or are subject to conditions which are also noted in the attachment.

There were 33 applications in total, including 6 new to the list. The total of the applications for 2023 was \$508,082 compared to the available funds of \$471,261.

The requests for grants exceeded the available funds, so the committee took the general approach to maintain grants at the previous year level with a few exceptions. Of the 33 applications, the Committee is recommending that 17 applications be granted the same amount as the previous year, 8 receive a slight increase, and 4 of the newly

added be awarded their request. One (1) application asked for a reduced amount. These were determined to be most closely aligned with other community and City initiatives and the most wide-reaching.

One (1) application was determined to be better suited through the Social Services program delivery budget (House of Blessing) due to the alignment with the current programming, so the recommendation from the Committee is that these funds be directed from the grant program to the Social Services division to administer.

Two applications were determined by the committee to reflect events that were better suited to user-pay funding options or alternative levels of government due to the nature of them. These included Stratford Live Music and Food (formerly run as Ribfest) and the playground at Bedford Public School. While not part of the grant request explicitly, it was noted that staff were aware of a possible contribution in kind that could be accommodated from the Roads division's materials if/when needed by Bedford Public School.

### **Financial Implications:**

**Financial impact to current year operating budget:** There is no net financial impact to the City, as funds to support the Community Grants Program are part of the 2023 budget. The distribution between the types of allocations varies slightly, but the recommended allocations are within the overall approved budget figures.

**Financial Impact on Future Year Operating Budget:** If there are any unspent funds in this budget at the end of 2023, these will be allocated to the community grants reserve for future use. The current balance in this reserve is approximately \$48,329 if Council proceeds with the Committee recommendations.

### **Alignment with Strategic Priorities:**

#### **Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships**

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

### **Alignment with One Planet Principles:**

#### **Health and Happiness**

Encouraging active, social, meaningful live to promote good health and wellbeing.

#### **Culture and Community**

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities, and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

**Staff Recommendation: THAT the 2023 grant requests as recommended on the schedule attached to Report COU23-061 be approved for award as one-time (annual) grants, with the exception of the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Ceremony;**

**THAT the 2023 grant request for the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Ceremony be approved for award as a multi-year grant for three years (2023, 2024, 2025), with 2024 and 2025 approvals being subject to budget consideration for those years;**

**AND THAT any appeals received from applicants be considered by the Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee.**

**Prepared by:** Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services  
**Recommended by:** Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services  
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer