
MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: June 18, 2024
To: Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee
From: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Report Number: FIN24-018
Attachments: None

Title: Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee Funding Request

Objective: To consider a request from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee for \$500.00 for expenses to host information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion.

Background: As part of the 2024 budget process, Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee (Committee) was approved funding for general materials and expenses of \$800.00. To date a total of \$112.73 has been spent for refreshments related to an information session hosted by the Committee. The Committee has also decided to spend up to \$150.00 to purchase and ship a Canadian flag to New Zealand to be used at their hosted 2025 reunion.

At the April 25, 2024, advisory committee meeting the Committee expressed concern that the remaining funds would not be sufficient to cover expenses related to hosting information sessions for the New Zealand event. At that meeting, the following motion was made by the Committee:

THAT the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee requests, in addition to their approved 2024 budget of \$800.00, an additional \$500.00 from Stratford Council, to assist with expenses relating to hosting information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Stratfords of the World Reunion.

Analysis: Information sessions are held by the Committee to provide information to members of the community interested in participating in the Stratfords of the World Reunions. Based on expenditures from previous information sessions, the cost for refreshments at two to three additional information sessions would be approximately \$230.00 to \$340.00.

The Chair of the Committee has advised also that historically they have made a charitable donation to the hosting Stratford each year and anticipates the New Zealand donation to be approximately \$300.00. In addition, they expect to pay a registration fee of \$100.00 that is transferred to the host City. When all current and planned expenditures are considered, there could be a shortfall of a few hundred dollars.

The Committee is requesting an additional \$500.00 to assist with expenses for hosting the information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion. If the request is to be supported, the amount could be funded from the reserve account containing advisory committee funds or an alternate location as directed by Council.

Options for consideration:

1. Approve the request: THAT the request from the Committee for an additional \$500.00 to assist with expenses relating to hosting information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion, be approved and funded from the advisory committee reserve.
2. File the request (meaning take no action): THAT the request from the Committee for an additional \$500.00 to assist with expenses relating to hosting information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion, be filed.

The Advisory Committee Reserve supports all of the advisory committees, currently as follows:

- Active Transportation
- Heritage
- Accessibility
- Energy & Environment
- Town & Gown (currently inactive)
- Communities in Bloom
- Stratfords of the World

During the 2024 budget process, Council effectively reduced the tax levy by using these available funds from prior year surpluses of \$94,945. Therefore, the Advisory Committee reserve is expected to have a 2024 year-end balance of \$42,170 before consideration of this request.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no anticipated effect on the operating budget or net surplus or deficit for the City, as any funding requirements or surpluses would flow through the reserve.

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 lives 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 request from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee for an additional \$500.00 to assist with expenses relating to hosting information sessions for the January 2025 New Zealand Stratfords of the World Reunion, funded from the Advisory Committee reserve be considered and direction be provided.

Prepared by:

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator

Recommended by:

Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk

Karmen Krueger, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer