

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: September 23, 2024
To: Finance and Labour Relations Committee
From: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Report Number: FIN24-030
Attachments: None

Title: Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee Funding Request for the 2025 New Zealand Reunion

Objective: To consider the request from Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee for \$7,350 to assist with expenses for members to attend the 2025 Stratfords of the World Reunion in New Zealand. This request represents a pre-budget request and an increase in service level with impact to taxpayers, if approved.

Background: Stratfords of the World reunions are held every two years with members from Stratfords around the globe travelling to participate in the event. Historically, Stratford advisory committee members paid their own registration fees and travel expenses should they choose to attend the reunion. Stratford citizens who attend these reunions also pay their own registration and travel expenses.

The registration fee for the 2025 reunion is \$470.00. Attendees are billeted by local residents and the registration fee includes activities and meals for the duration of the reunion. Currently, Attendees are required to book and pay for their own transportation to and from the reunion.

At the August 8, 2024, Advisory Committee meeting the following motion was adopted:

THAT the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee requests Stratford City Council consider financial support in the amount of \$7,350.00 for up to five (5) SOTW Ontario members to attend the 2025 New Zealand Stratfords of the World Reunion as outlined below:

Registration Fees (\$470.00 x 5)	\$2,350.00
Travel Expenses	\$5,000.00
Total	\$7,350.00

Analysis: The purpose of this report is to consider the request from the Committee and to seek direction of Council.

Options for consideration:

1. Approve the request: THAT the request from the Stratfords of the World Advisory Committee for a change in service level and to assist members with registration and travel costs relating to the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion, be approved;

AND THAT the Director of Corporate Services report back with funding options for the financial assistance.

2. File the request (meaning take no action): THAT the request from the Committee for a change in service level and for \$7,350.00 to assist members with registration and travel costs relating to the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion, be filed.

As this request was not part of the advisory committee's 2024 approved budget and registration and travel expenditure commitments are required before the 2025 budget will be passed, the Committee is seeking approval from Council.

This request is a change in service level and involves funding for members of a City Advisory Committee to attend the 2025 reunion. If approved by Council, members of the Advisory Committee would also become subject to the Travel and Conference Policy T.2.1, currently under review.

A similar request was approved this year to fund representatives of Communities in Bloom to attend the 2024 National Symposium following the decision of Council to host the 2025 National Symposium in Stratford. As explained at the time, there is an expectation from the National Organization that Stratford would attend the 2024 CIB event to promote attendance at the 2025 Symposium. In the past, citizen members of CIB wishing to attend a National Symposium, where the City was not hosting, would pay their own way.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The Director of Corporate Services will report on where funding could come from, subject to the direction of Council on the request for financial assistance for the 2025 Reunion.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

If Option 2 is selected, there are no future year budget impacts.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: This report does not align with one of the Strategic Priorities as the purpose is to consider a funding request from an advisory committee.

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 to assist members with registration and travel costs relating to the January 2025 New Zealand Reunion, be considered;

AND THAT subject to the direction of Council regarding Options 1 or 2, the Director of Corporate Services to identify funding source options at a future meeting.

Prepared by:

Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk

Recommended by:

Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services
Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer