

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 14, 2025
To: Finance and Labour Relations Committee
From: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator
Report Number: FIN25-022
Attachments: None

Title: Communities in Bloom Request for Reallocation of 2025 Budget Funds

Objective: To consider the request from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to reallocate funds approved in their 2025 Budget to alternate projects.

Background: At the June 5, 2025 Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee meeting the following motion was passed:

THAT the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee requests up to \$5,000.00 from the Special Project budget line be reallocated to the CiB Symposium Expenses line to assist in offsetting additional expenses related to the 2025 Symposium.

The approved 2025 budget request from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee included \$5,000.00 for CiB Symposium Expenses and \$5,000.00 for Special Projects – Landscape Design Project Confederation North & Indigenous Collaboration.

Stratford is hosting the 31st Annual Communities in Bloom (CiB) Symposium in October in conjunction with CiB National. The request for reallocation of funds would be used to pay for expenses including, but not limited to, registration for members of the Committee and delegates, decorations, complimentary refreshments for participants and minor incidentals not covered by CiB National.

The Landscape Design Project Confederation North & Indigenous Collaboration was started with staff and the Indigenous Community early in 2025. A circle of trees has been planted in Confederation North as a starting point for the project.

CiB Stratford has reviewed their project list for 2025 and wish to shift their focus to the Symposium with the understanding the Landscape Design Project will continue in 2026.

CiB will be requesting this \$5,000.00 in their 2026 budget request for the Landscape Design Project Confederation North & Indigenous Collaboration along with some other increases. Preliminary increases are looking to go from \$15,000 to \$22,500 which would be partly a result of this shift, and partly a result of added expenditures for a proposed gateway project. Should the 2026 Budget be approved at that time, this project can resume and collaboration continued into 2026.

Analysis:

Options for consideration:

1. Approve the request: THAT the request from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to reallocate \$5,000.00 from the Special Project budget line be reallocated to the CiB Symposium Expenses line to assist in offsetting additional expenses related to the 2025 Symposium be approved.
2. Deny the request: THAT the request from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to reallocate \$5,000.00 from the Special Project budget line be reallocated to the CiB Symposium Expenses line to assist in offsetting additional expenses related to the 2025 Symposium be denied.

Alternately, a decision could be made to allow a portion of the funds to be reallocated for the 2025 Symposium leaving a smaller budget for the Landscape Design Project.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

There is no impact to the current year operating budget as no additional funds are being requested.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There is no impact on the future year operating budget as the reallocation request is for the current year budget.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Not applicable: This report does not align with one of the Strategic Priorities as it is a request for reallocation of funds.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Not applicable: This report does not align with the One Planet Principles as it is a request for reallocation of funds.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the Finance and Labour Relations Committee provide direction on the request from the Communities in Bloom Advisory Committee to reallocate \$5,000.00 from the Special Project budget line to the CiB Symposium Expenses line in the 2025 budget.

Prepared by: Vicky Trotter, Council Committee Coordinator

Recommended by: Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk
Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services
Adam Betteridge, Interim Chief Administrative Officer