

**Subject: Intergovernmental Relations Services Update**

**APPROVALS:**

**Jamie Doyle**

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Director

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Chief Administrative Officer

**Recommended Motion:**

THAT the Intergovernmental Relations Services Update report be accepted as information.

**Summary:**

In support of 2018-2021 Strategic Plan initiative #1H, Intergovernmental Relations, the Municipality is working to secure a firm to support advocacy efforts with the Provincial and Federal Government.

**Background:**

At the February 9, 2021 Council meeting a commitment was made that prior to any funds being expended for intergovernmental relations support, a report outlining the costs associated with lobbying would be provided to council.

At that time, the Communications and Engagement Department had been working with Supply Chain Management on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to secure intergovernmental relations services to advance advocacy efforts.

The RFP detailed three (3) key areas to deliver on. This included:

- 1. Research and Current Status Phase:** Perform a review and report on the Municipality's current intergovernmental relations activity from both an Elected Official and Administrative perspective. Part of this phase involves a review and assessment of current areas of advocacy, gaps, and the identification of any additional current and/or future municipal issues that intersect with other levels of government.
- 2. Development Phase:** The development of an action driven intergovernmental relations strategy that aligns with existing areas of advocacy and the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. In particular, this strategy would focus on initiating and sustaining relationships with other levels of government, in an effort to keep governments

aware of ongoing issues, as well as the tools to support this and systems for tracking.

- 3. Ongoing and Sustained Support:** This is the active advocacy, or lobbying, component and includes, but is not limited to: strategic advice to Elected Officials and Administration when required, having a presence on the ground in Edmonton and Ottawa to advocate on behalf of the Municipality, the development of activities/events specific to key advocacy areas (e.g. support of a trip to advocate on a specific issue), supporting the drafting of materials for Elected Officials to use as part of advocacy , and reporting back on activity.

Also noted in the RFP was a desired commitment to regular communication with the Chief Administration Officer and other members of Administration to detail advocacy activities and work.

This RFP was posted on February 11, 2021 and closed on March 3, 2021. Two proposals were submitted and evaluated by a panel of five (5) senior administrative staff and Administration is prepared to award the contract.

#### **Budget/Financial Implications:**

As the RFP process has not concluded exact financials related to the bids are unable to be shared.

Given that these services will be requested on an as required basis by Elected Officials and Administration, the exact amount to be expended depends on the individual issue and approach. However, total funding of up to \$100,000.00 for this initiative has been approved through the 2021 budget.

#### **Rationale for Recommendation:**

Moving forward on this initiative supports the Responsible Government pillar of the 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, and specifically strategic initiative #1H - Intergovernmental Relations. This project has been budgeted for and approved as part of the Budget 2021 process and an open, fair and transparent competitive procurement process has been followed to select a successful proponent.

#### **Strategic Priorities:**

Responsible Government