

Subject: Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Above and Beyond Award Nomination**APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**_____
Director_____
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

THAT Council approve submission of a nomination for the 2019 Alberta Urban Municipalities Association Above and Beyond Award. This nomination will focus on the work of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Chief Administrative Officer Annette Antoniak and the Financial Services Department for the zero-based budgeting initiative introduced in 2017.

Summary and Background:

On an annual basis, the Alberta Urban Municipalities Association (AUMA) accepts nominations for a variety of awards. The 2019 AUMA Above and Beyond Award recognizes staff, residents, or other organizations who have played a significant role in implementing a municipality's sustainability plan and achieving the community's goals related to economic sustainability.

This year's AUMA Award theme is economic sustainability. The scope of the theme will encompass economic sustainability initiatives relating to business investment and attraction, support for entrepreneurs and workforce development. Municipalities pursue economic sustainability through a broad range of activities including but not limited to:

- Innovative policies focused on the attraction of new industries (e.g. agricultural, life and bioscience, Internet of Things, circular economy)
- Main street revitalization
- Successful implementation of the Business Vitality Alberta or Tourism Vitality Alberta Toolkit
- Development and implementation of economic development strategies
- Business attraction, retention, and expansion initiatives (e.g. business incubation, business counselling, industrial parks, marketing plans)

- Business-friendly governance policies (e.g. streamlining policies, reducing timeline for approvals, coordination between economic development and planning departments)
- Labour attraction and retention initiatives

Eligible nominees may include municipal staff, residents, and/or organizations, and may even include a committee made up of municipal officials and residents.

Nominees for the Above and Beyond Award will have gone the extra mile in one or more of the following areas:

- a. Championing the concept and principles of municipal sustainability planning within the community or municipal organization;
- b. Playing a key role in implementing a specific initiative that contributed to measurable progress of a municipality's economic sustainability.

The award will be presented during the AUMA's Annual Convention taking place in Edmonton from September 25 - 27, 2019.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Introduced to the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in 2017 by Chief Administrative Officer Annette Antoniak and the Financial Services team, zero-based budgeting is an innovative budget methodology developed as a fresh approach to municipal budgeting. The adoption of zero-based budgeting requires a shift in culture as departments and leaders are challenged to identify cost efficiencies and consider their departmental budgets from a new perspective, ensuring maximum fiscal responsibility and judicious use of municipal funds.

Strategic Priorities:

Responsible Government

Attachments:

- 1. 2019 AUMA Above and Beyond Award**
- 2. 2019 AUMA Above and Beyond Award Nomination**