

Subject: Advisory Committee on Aging Request For Operating Funding**APPROVALS:**

Heather Evasiuk, Acting Director
Dale Bendfeld, Acting Executive Director
Marcel Ulliac, Chief Administrative Officer

Administrative Recommendations:

THAT it be recommended to Council that \$100,000 be allocated to fund the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Aging (ACOA) in 2015, to be sourced from:

- 2015 Community Services Department Operating Budget surplus;
 - 2015 Community and Protective Services Division Operating Budget surplus;
 - 2015 Corporate Operating Budget surplus; or
 - Emerging Issues Reserve;
- in that order; and

THAT similar funding for ACOA's activities in future years be incorporated in the budgeting process and brought forward for Council's consideration; and

THAT it be recommended to Council that Administration continue to support the ACOA consistent with the standard processes that are in place to support Council committees throughout the Municipality.

Summary:

On January 13, 2015, Council adopted ACOA's recommendation that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo seek the World Health Organization's Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities designation. An age-friendly community designs policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment that help seniors live safely, enjoy good health and stay involved. There are eight domains:

1. Pleasant, safe and accessible outdoor areas.
2. Affordable, safe and accessible public transportation.
3. Sufficient, affordable, safe and well-designed housing.
4. Opportunities for seniors to be socially active.
5. Respectful and inclusive relationships.
6. Opportunities for civic participation and employment.
7. Easy-to-find and understandable information.
8. Community health and support services.

To achieve this status, ACOA seeks dedicated resources under its specific direction, including community engagement funding and seconded Municipal employees.

Background:

The Advisory Committee on Aging Bylaw No. 14/021 was passed on June 24, 2014. At the January 13, 2015, Council meeting, ACOA chairperson Dave Hodson presented information about the World Health Organization’s (WHO) Age-Friendly Communities initiative. Council unanimously supported pursuit of the Age Friendly Community designation by May, 2015.

The Community Services Department (CSD) provides administrative support to nine Council-appointed advisory committees, including ACOA. Its current organizational structure allows staff to work on committee projects and requests, and other projects and initiatives, as a team with support from all employee classifications, including program assistants, coordinators, supervisors, managers and the director. The program coordinator for seniors would be the logical project lead with other support provided as needed.

Budget/Financial Implications:

Approximately \$100,000 is required for program costs such as community engagement.

Organizational and Other Implications:

Although the Municipality has a long history of providing generous staff support to its advisory committees, there appears to be no precedent for formal secondment. Since ACOA is not a legal person, it cannot be an “employer.” Any seconded individual would have to continue as a Municipal employee for the purposes of salary, pension contributions, statutory deductions, insurance, Workers’ Compensation, and vicarious liability.

It is also unclear how seconded staff would be managed – who they would be accountable to and who would ensure that they have enough ACOA work to justify full-time secondment. These are significant issues because such a secondment could set a precedent for other advisory committees seeking assistance.

Rationale for Recommendations:

ACOA requested seconded staff under its direction to gain the Age-Friendly Community designation and subsequently develop recommendations with respect to the eight domains.

The CSD has the necessary resources within its current structure to provide the required level of administrative support.

Attachments:

1. Advisory Committee on Aging Bylaw No. 14/021