

Subject: **Exploration of a Regional Fire Service – Grant Support Letter**
 Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025
 Prepared By: Mike Haugen, CAO
 Presented By: Mike Haugen, CAO

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT: (Check all that apply)

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Quality Infrastructure		Economic Resilience		Quality of Life		Effective Leadership		Level of Service	

RELEVANT LEGISLATION:

Provincial (cite)- N/A

Council Bylaw/Policy (cite)- N/A

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

The Alberta Community Partnership (ACP) grant program is intended to foster cooperation between municipalities and focuses on:

- new or enhanced regional municipal services
- improved municipal capacity to respond to priorities
- effective intermunicipal relations

The exploration of regional service delivery is an eligible project under the grant. In the past, grants under this program have provided funding of up to \$200,000.00. It is anticipated that the regional municipalities would apply for the full amount allowed.

The Village of Acme would lead this application. Applications are typically due later in the year. This item is being presented in advance of current year program details being released.

DISCUSSION/OPTIONS/BENEFITS/DISADVANTAGES/OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The discussion for a regional Fire service has been around for a number of years with many advocates both for and opposed. There are different ways to structure and finance a regional fire service that could be explored and weighed against the option of delivering fire services as it is currently done in order to determine a preferred future state.

Some of the major factors in initiating this exploration/study is the rising cost of Fire equipment, the equipment life span, as well as the availability of volunteers to man the Fire Department.

The impact of the various communities also needs to be examined as part of this study.

The ACP grant will allow for an independent third party to do a study and provide unbiased information to our communities that will assist us in planning and delivering our Fire Services.

FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:



Staff time will be required should the grant be approved. It is anticipated that the grant will cover the costs of the proposed project.

RECOMMENDED ENGAGEMENT:

Directive Decision (Information Sharing, One-Way Communication)

Tools:

Individual Notification

Other:

ATTACHMENTS:

None

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Council may opt to support the request for support.
2. Council may opt to decline supporting the grant application.
3. Council may direct Administration to seek additional information.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That Council support the Village of Acme's application to Alberta Community Partnership to explore Regional Fire Services.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS:

Administration will inform the Village of Acme of Council's decision and prepare any necessary correspondence needed for the grant application.

APPROVAL(S):

Mike Haugen, Chief Administrative Officer

Approved- 