

# **Committee of the Whole Report**

For the Meeting of June 10, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole Date: June 10, 2021

From: Jo-Ann O'Connor, Deputy Director of Finance

Subject: 2021 Strategic Plan Grant Applications

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider and approve, as determined by Council, the External Grant Review Committee's recommendations for grant awards for the Strategic Plan Grant program.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The intake for the 2021 Strategic Plan Grant program closed January 31, 2021. The 2021 Financial Plan allocated funding of \$477,100 for the Strategic Plan Grants and Micro Grants. In May 2021, Council approved the full Micro Grant request of \$4,485; thus, the remaining amount available for Strategic Plan Grants is \$472,615.

In August 2016, Council approved the Terms of Reference (Appendix A) to implement an external grant review committee for the City's Strategic Plan Grants for a one-year pilot. Council has continued with the external grant review committee since the 2018 intake term. The external grant review committee was established to promote a merit-based evaluation process by appointing members with expertise in the areas that are eligible under the grant program.

The City received a total of 68 grant applications (Appendix B); one organization rescinded their application leaving 67 eligible applications totalling \$1,323,857 and requests ranging from \$2,800 to \$95,200 (Appendix C). In 2020, the City received 74 grant applications and 66 were eligible totalling \$1,198,733 and requests ranged from \$2,120 to \$47,000.

In June 2020, Council approved an additional \$100,000 to the Strategic Plan Grants budget due to COVID-19, and a total of \$604,335 was awarded. Council also directed staff to undertake a second intake period of Strategic Plan Grants and allocated an additional one-time funding of \$250,000 for grants with an exclusive focus on recovery projects related to COVID-19. In 2020, a total of \$854,335 was awarded for both intake streams.

The external grant review committee has evaluated the Strategic Plan grant applications and are providing a separate report and recommendations for Council's consideration.

### Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Lockhart Jo-Ann O'Connor Susanne Thompson

Manager, Revenue Deputy Director of Finance Deputy City Manager/CFO

### Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager

## **List of Appendices**

Appendix A: External Grant Review Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix B: Strategic Plan Grant Applications

Appendix C: Strategic Plan Grant Application Summary of Eligible Amounts

Appendix D: Grant Policy