

# **Committee of the Whole Report**

For the Meeting of June 23, 2022

To: Committee of the Whole Date: June 9, 2022

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

Subject: 2022 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**

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 intake period for the 2022 Strategic Plan Grant program closed January 31, 2022. The City received 97 grant applications (Appendix B); with 90 eligible applications totalling \$1,535,598 and requests ranging from \$2,500 to \$94,761 (Appendix C). The 2022 Financial Plan has allocated funding of \$512,160 for the Strategic Plan Grant program.

This year, the City received 29 more grant applications compared to last year. In 2021, the City received 68 grant applications with 67 eligible applications totalling \$1,323,857 and requests ranged from \$2,800 to \$95,200.

The volume of grant applications received has been steadily increasing each year and this is impacting both staff and committee members' capacity to support the current process and timelines. Council may wish to consider that extending the timeline and providing additional staff resources to support this program may be required going forward. The External Grant Review Committee's report also notes this challenge.

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,

Layla Monk 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