



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of April 4, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 27, 2024
From: William Doyle, Acting Director, Engineering and Public Works
Subject: Bastion Square Projects and Upgrades

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Direct staff to include \$150,000 for Bastion Square Capital Upgrades with funding from the Bastion Square Revitalization Association (BSRA) Trust to the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan; and
2. That this recommendation be forwarded to the daytime meeting of April 4, 2024, for approval.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BSRA fund was setup to support projects that would positively benefit the square. In the spirit of the fund, staff recommend transfer of the BSRA funds to the Engineering and Public Works budget, to address infrastructure maintenance issues in the short term.

PURPOSE

This report outlines the proposed transfer of funds from the BSRA Trust to support the upgrading of lighting and surface infrastructure in Bastion Square.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

Bastion Square is a high traffic pedestrian corridor and valuable historic asset. The City must maintain this high value asset and address safety concerns that arise in a timely manner. The City achieves this through regular inspections and adhering to standards.

A consistent inspection and maintenance program will help ensure that all parts of Bastion Square remain suitable for its intended use as a pedestrian walkway and gathering place. The City has put aside funds in the past to support the work within the square under the BSRA Trust. Currently this fund has not been accessed and the BSRA have been disbanded leaving these funds unspent. There is currently approximately \$150,000 within the fund that staff are requesting be allocated to support infrastructure work.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 – That Council approves the transfer of funds from the BSRA Trust to the Engineering and Public Works budget (Recommended).

Should Council support this option, staff will be able to progress the identified upgrades to Bastion Square, without impacting other projects or plans contemplated in the Financial Plan.

Option 2 – That Council declines the request to transfer funds from the Trust.

Council may choose to leave the funds in the Trust for the time being. This decision would require that staff identify other less-urgent projects in the Financial Plan which may be deferred in order to accommodate the Bastion Square work.

2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan

This maintenance and enhancement of Bastion Square assets and infrastructure serves to support the following Council priorities: Transportation; Parks, Recreation & Gathering Spaces; Community Well-being and Safety; Economic Health and Community Vitality; and Arts, Culture, Music, Sport and Entertainment.

Impacts to Financial Plan

Should Council approve the recommendations, staff will increase the 2024 – 2028 Financial Plan Capital Plan by \$150,000 with funding from the BSRA Trust. There will be no impact to property tax rates resulting from this transfer.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

This report is consistent with the Official Community Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

The reallocation of the funds from the BSRA Trust to the Engineering and Public Works budget will support efforts to maintain Bastion Square at an appropriate standard.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben Bowker
Manager, Surface Infrastructure

William Doyle
Acting Director, Engineering and Public Works

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.