

Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Municipal Funding Agreement

From: Sam Dinsmore, Director of Corporate Services

Date: August 1, 2024

Staff Recommendation:

That a by-law be introduced authorizing the Warden and Clerk to execute the Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario.

Report Summary:

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) require the County to enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement (Attachment #1) which will allow the County to continue to receive annual Canada Community Building Fund (CCBF) grants formerly known as Gas Tax.

This report is seeking approval for a by-law to authorize the Warden and Clerk to sign the agreement.

Background:

The agreement is standard practice for AMO and has a 10-year expiry date of March 31, 2034, which indicates the intent that this funding program will continue for the foreseeable future. There is a termination clause, but staff are optimistic that this stable funding source will continue, with annual increases.

Included in the agreement are a number of requirements for the County, including but not limited to annual reporting, handling of unspent funds, and specific eligible expense categories, these requirements are no different than what staff are currently subject to and staff do not see any issues with meeting all annual requirements.

For 2024 the County will receive \$2,264,223 from CCBF this amount will increase annually to a total of \$2,452,908 by 2028. This funding has become an integral part of the County's annual capital budget and has been dedicated to the replacement/rehabilitation of bridge and culvert structures in the 5-year capital plan.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

The CCBF is a stable, consistent source of capital funding for the County, if these funds were not received the projects would either require additional tax levy support, long-term debt, or the postponement of certain projects. This funding allows the County to move these projects forward without impacting the local taxpayer.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Linda White, County Clerk Lynn Hatten, Deputy Treasurer

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

County staff have included the CCBF grants in the County's Asset Management Plan as a sustainable, consistent funding source. By including this annual grant in the funding calculations it allows the County to lower the required annual contributions to capital projects and capital reserve funds and therefore reduce the pressures on the tax levy.

Departmental Approval:

Sam Dinsmore, Director of Corporate Services

Approved for Submission:

Sean Morphy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer