



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Title Needle Debris Mitigation Grant Funding

Meeting Date March 11, 2025

Submitted By Darrell Mathews, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

Summary

The Government of Alberta has provided the opportunity for the City of Lethbridge to enter into a new three-year grant funding agreement, which would provide \$115,000 per year to support with costs related to the effective collection and disposal of drug-related debris in the community.

Administration is seeking Council's approval through Resolution to accept and spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget in accordance with s. 248 of the *Municipal Government Act.*, RSA 2000, c. M-26.

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. approve the expenditure of \$345,000 from the Government of Alberta, for fiscal years 2025-2027, to support costs related to the effective collection and disposal of drug-related debris to mitigate potential community harm.

Financial

The Government of Alberta has approved a new three-year agreement that would provide the City of Lethbridge with \$115,000 annually for a total of \$345,000.00, eligible to be spent between April 1, 2025 and March 31, 2028. No City of Lethbridge tax supported funds are being requested as part of this request.

Administration requires Council expenditure approval through Resolution to spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget by Section 248 of the *Municipal Government Act.*

Background and Prior Decisions

Since 2019, the Province of Alberta has provided grant funding support the City of Lethbridge for costs related to the effective collection and disposal of drug-related debris. The overarching goal is to mitigate potential community harm that may occur because of improper collection or accidental contact to drug related debris.

Historically, the Community Social Development (CSD) has managed the agreement and the funds for the City of Lethbridge with the needle debris mitigation services contracted through the Downtown BRZ's Clean Sweep Program (CSP).

Engagement

N/A

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

1. Council approves expenditure of provincial grant funding totaling \$345,000 for fiscal years 2025-2027.
2. Council does not approve expenditure of provincial funding totaling \$345,000 for fiscal years 2025-2027.
 - If the grant funding is not accepted, needle debris mitigation measures in the community will become a municipal tax pressure or the service will cease and there may be an increased risk safety (real and perceived) as the cleanup of drug debris is not addressed.

Attachment(s)

None

Link(s)

None

Approvals
Department Director: Darrell Mathews
City Manager: Lloyd Brierley