



CITY OF
Lethbridge

**CITY COUNCIL INQUIRY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSE**

Submitted By: Jenn Schmidt-Rempel, Councillor

Date Submitted: October 18, 2023

Subject: Affordable and Social Housing Operating Grant

Respondent: Darrell Mathews

Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

Council Inquiry:	Councillor Schmidt-Rempel at the October 18, 2023 Economic SPC meeting inquired on the status of her 2022 request that Administration look at the model that Edmonton has launched for tax grants for affordable housing units owned and operated by non-profit organizations.
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Administrative Response:	<p>There were several meetings for Council to recall on this journey of developing an Affordable and Social Housing Operating Grant for the City of Lethbridge.</p> <p>June 7, 2022 - City Council Meeting under agenda item 8.1.2 Affordable and Social Housing Incentive Options were brought forward based on the recommendations from Cultural and Social Standing Policy Committee from May 19, 2022. The recommendations were presented and the following resolution was carried:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Direct Administration to investigate the development of a community wide Affordable and Social Housing Operating Grant, with options to be included in the 2023-2026 Operating Budget deliberations; and2) Direct Administration to review the information related to the specified property (Coulee Creek Seniors Building Project) to identify one-time funding possibilities, including the direct effect on rents and costs for tenants, and the implications of such and without restricting the generality of the foregoing to also include the broad based implications that this may have regarding future budgetary pressures and to return to the July 5, 2022 Meeting of City Council; and
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- 3) Direct Administration to create an advocacy framework for affordable housing and present to the June 24, 2022 Advocacy Advisory Committee.

October 19, 2022 - Economic Standing Policy Committee – Affordable and Social Housing Grant Options Report was presented and the following motion was carried.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Economic Standing Policy Committee recommend to City Council that the City only offer capital grants to affordable and social housing Providers.

November 8, 2022 – City Council Meeting under the consent agenda item 4.4.2 Affordable and Social Housing Operating Grant Options, City Council adopted the recommendations of the Economic SPC meeting from October 19, 2022 and the following motion was carried:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT City Council consider only offering capital grants to affordable and social housing providers.

November 14, 2022 – Budget Initiative: C-5.1 Affordable Housing Operating Grant was presented to Economic SPC during budget deliberations and the motion was struck due to the resolution from November 8 that was adopted by Council.