



## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

**Title** Building Safer Communities Fund 2024-2025  
Contribution Agreement

**Meeting Date** January 23, 2024

**Submitted By** Darrell Mathews, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

### Summary

- The City's current Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) contribution agreement with Public Safety Canada ends on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. A new two-year contribution agreement is anticipated to start on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- Administration requires Council's approval through resolution to spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget as per Section 248 of the Municipal Government Act.

### Recommendation(s)

That Council:

1. Approve expenditure of \$1,045,971.30 for federal fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 from Public Safety Canada's Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF), to complete work contained within the updated workplan, as approved by Public Safety Canada, to address and respond to gun and gang activities in the community, and all future annual allocations under this grant funding opportunity.
2. AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to sign the appropriate contribution agreements, when received, subject to pending available funding from the Government of Canada.

### Financial

Public Safety Canada has allocated \$665,618.10 in fiscal year 2024-2025 (ending March 31, 2025) and \$380,353.20 in fiscal year 2025-2026 (ending March 31, 2026) to the City of Lethbridge.

Federal funding is being offered with no matching requirement for prevention and intervention initiatives to address and respond to gun and gang violence in the community. There is no net cost to the City of Lethbridge as all expenditures will be externally funded by this grant with an opportunity to have the grant offset existing taxation & grant funded position for eligible work done to support this grant. The funds may be used to cover the costs of wages, professional and consulting fees, communications materials, and activities and workshops to support the program.

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

### Background and Prior Decisions

- The objective of the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) is to support municipalities in their efforts to address gun and gang prevalence by providing a determined funding allocation to put in place community led projects to combat gun and gang violence and address knowledge gaps concerning the impacts of interventions in gun and gang violence.
- Eligible activities under the BSCF include: developing a strategy; developing and delivering prevention intervention initiatives addressing risk factors associated with youth at risk of gun and gang violence, including but not limited to mentoring, counselling, skills development and recreational opportunities; outreach and recruitment of preventative initiatives or intervention participants; public awareness and education; and development or enhancement of data systems to support data gathering/reporting on gun and gang crime or on results achieved.
- In late 2023, Community Social Development and the Lethbridge Police Service developed and submitted comprehensive two-year work plan application to Public Safety Canada to secure further Contribution Agreement(s) for the remaining funding for the next two years (\$1,045,971.30). Upon approval, the City of Lethbridge will receive the remaining allocated funding amount.
- On July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Lethbridge City Council approved \$665,618.10 as part of the BSCF Y2 funding. Since this approval, CSD has been working in close partnership with Lethbridge Police Services to implement BSCF programming in our community.
- The City of Lethbridge is eligible to receive the following funding allocation amounts from Public Safety Canada through the Building Safer Communities Fund. Allocation amounts must be spent in the fiscal year specified.

<b>Federal Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Allocation Amount</b>
<b>Y1 - FY 2022-23</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Y2 - FY 2023-24</b>	<b>\$ 665,618.10</b>
<b>Y3 - FY 2024-25</b>	<b>\$ 665,618.10</b>
<b>Y4 - FY 2025-26</b>	<b>\$ 380,353.20</b>
<b>Total Amount Available:</b>	<b>\$ 1,711,589.40</b>

### Engagement

Lethbridge Police Services has been engaged with to ensure alignment of shared goals and responsibilities in the development of the comprehensive application and budget.

The current year of BSCF initiatives includes community engagement through surveys and focus groups with preliminary data, which supports the comprehensive application workplan developed for the next two years of funding.

## Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

1. Council approves expenditure of new federal funding (\$1,045,971.30) for fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 once comprehensive application is approved by Public Safety Canada.

By obtaining approval to expend, administration can continue to provide BSCF programming and implement work plan initiatives for the next two years.

- *Community/Citizen:* 1) increased knowledge of gang involvement and gun violence in Lethbridge, 2) increased support for youth at risk of gun and gang violence to access preventative youth programming in partnership with CSD funded youth-serving providers, 3) evidence-based and community-informed updates to the Community Clean and Safe Strategy and other relevant City (and LPS) plans, strategies, or initiatives
  - *Risk:* Given that this funding is time-limited, staff are cognizant of developing a program that can be sustained in the long-term without ongoing support from taxpayers. As such, the strategy will contemplate how to continue to deliver the initiatives after the grant funding has ceased.
  - *Implementation and Communication Plan:* With approval from Council, administration will obtain signatures on the Contribution Agreement once received and return to Public Safety Canada. Once Administration receives a fully executed copy and notification from Public Safety Canada, CSD will commence delivering projects approved in the workplan through to March 2026.
2. Council does not approve expenditure of new federal funding (\$1,045,971.30) for fiscal years 2024-2025 and 2025-2026.
    - *Community/Citizen:* Without funding, few preventative programs for youth in the community will be available.
    - *Risk:* Without approval to expend, administration will decline Public Safety Canada's funding which will prevent the City from obtaining the additional funding contribution of \$1,045,971.30 and may prevent the City from obtaining future available funding through the program. Administration will be required to terminate the term positions hired to execute this work.
    - *Implementation and Communication Plan:* Administration will decline funding from Public Safety Canada.

## Link(s)

1. [9.2 Building Safer Communities Fund \(BSCF\) – Public Safety Canada Council Resolution](#)
2. [Building Safer Communities Fund \(BSCF\) – Public Safety Canada Report to City Council \(July 25, 2023\)](#)

**Approvals**

**Department Director:** Darrell Mathews

**City Manager:** Lloyd Brierley