



## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

**Title** Lethbridge Needle Debris Mitigation Funding - Government of Alberta

**Meeting Date** March 26, 2024

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

### Summary

- The City has entered into a grant funding agreement with the Government of Alberta for purposes related to support the City of Lethbridge with costs related to the effective collection and disposal of drug-related debris.
- Administration is seeking Council's approval through Resolution to accept and spend additional dollars that are not identified in the operating budget as per Section 248 of the Municipal Government Act.

### Recommendation(s)

1. That Council approve the expenditure of \$115,000, from the Government of Alberta, for provincial fiscal year 2024-2025, to complete the effective collection and disposal of drug-related debris to mitigate potential community harm.

### Financial

The Government of Alberta has allocated \$115,000 in provincial fiscal year 2024-2025.

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.

- The City competitively procured the needle debris mitigation services and the Downtown BRZ's Clean Sweep Program (CSP) was successful in securing the contract to provide the services for the City of Lethbridge.

### **Engagement**

N/A

### **Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis**

1. Council approves expenditure of provincial grant funding (\$115,000) for fiscal year 2024-2025.
2. Council does not approve expenditure of provincial grant funding (\$115,000) for fiscal year 2024-2025.
  - 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.

<b><u>Approvals</u></b>
<b>Department Director:</b> Darrell Mathews
<b>City Manager:</b> Lloyd Brierley