



Report

City of Merritt
REGULAR Council Meeting
September 17, 2019

File Number: 5225

To: Scott Hildebrand, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Jim Dinwoodie, Director of Engineering & Development

Date: September 11, 2019

Subject: Change in Funding Source – Flood Mitigation

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council direct staff to allocate \$150,000 from the Gas Tax Reserves for the Flood Mitigation Plan project and amend the 2019-2023 Financial Plan to reflect this allocation.

Background:

At the 2019 Strategic Planning session City Council identified designing flood mitigation measures for the community as their top priority. To accomplish this goal staff has hired several specialized consulting firms to develop a plan to minimize damages caused by future flooding events. AllNorth Engineering (engineering design), Nova Pacific Environmental (environmental specialists) and LCI (hydrotechnical experts) have been working on designing repair strategies for the three locations along the Nicola River (Rotary Park, Lions Park Ped. Bridge and Golf Course) which were damaged as a result of the 2018 flooding event.

Reviewed by:			
Director, Corp. Services Approved - Sean Smith	Director, Finance & IT Approved - Sheila Thiessen	Director, Engineering & Development Choose an item.	Chief Administrative Officer: Approved - Scott Hildebrand

In addition to these repair locations the above noted companies have been tasked with developing flood mitigation measures for the Voght Street corner (Voght Street bridge to RCMP station).

This work was included as part of the Flood Mitigation Plan, which was originally budgeted for using grant funding. The grant application was unsuccessful, necessitating an alternative source of funding to be identified to move forward.

This plan and design work is necessary to enable the City to apply for Flood Mitigation Infrastructure grant funding at the end of October. As such, staff recommends allocating the budgeted \$150,000 from the Gas Tax Reserve to complete this project.

Financial / Risk Implications:

Staff is recommending that the Gas Tax Reserve funds from the Community Works Gas Tax program be used to fund this Flood Mitigation Plan work. As of December 31, 2018, there was a balance of \$2,428,244 available in the Gas Tax Reserve. The chart below shows the impact on the Gas Tax Reserve.

Opening Balance	\$2,428,244
Already committed 2019 Budget	(1,157,881)
Additional for Flood Mitigation Plan	(150,000)
2019 Gas Tax Funding Received	726,149
Gas Tax Reserve Balance	\$1,846,512

Alternatively, Council could direct staff to use surplus funds for this project, though staff is recommending Gas Tax as this is a Gas Tax eligible expenditure.

Strategic Plan Reference:

This project has been identified as City Council's number one strategic priority.

Attachments:

N/A

Respectfully submitted,

James Dinwoodie
Director of Engineering and Development