

To: Chief Administrative Officer
From: Doug Stewart, Director of Finance
Subject: **2023 to 2027 Capital Plan Amendments**

Date: June 19, 2023

Recommendation(s)

1. That Council approve the following changes to the 2023 to 2027 Capital Plan:
 - a) Add the Centennial Park Lacrosse Box and Multi-use Court Upgrade project for \$2,000,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - b) Add the Spray Park project for \$1,500,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - c) Add the Foundry project for \$1,000,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - d) Add the Housing Initiatives project for \$1,000,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - e) Add the Clarke Theater Capital Improvement project for \$2,000,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - f) Add the Fraser Heritage Park Garbage Compound project for \$25,000 funded from the Gaming Reserve;
 - g) Add the Arts and Culture Initiatives project for \$200,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - h) Add the Dockside Flood Protection Detailed Design project for \$850,000 funded from the Growing Communities Fund;
 - i) Add the Centennial Park Upgrade project for \$1,500,000 funded from the Forestry Legacy Reserve;
 - j) Add the Burial Platforms project for \$8,000 funded from the Cemetery Reserve;
 - k) Increase the Enterprise Application System project budget by \$100,000 funded from the Unappropriated Accumulated Surplus;
 - l) Increase the RCMP Detachment CCTV System Upgrade project budget by \$20,000 funded from the Public Safety Reserve; and
 - m) Add the Community Policing Office Front Counter Security Enhancement project for \$25,000 funded from the Public Safety Reserve
2. That the 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the projects Council resolved to be included in the 5-year capital plan at the May 29, 2023 Special Council Meeting and to seek approval for some other changes recommended by staff and detailed in this report.

Background

At the February 16, 2023 Freestanding Committee of the Whole (Corporate Administration and Finance Committee – Budget) meeting, the Committee passed a resolution to schedule a meeting to discuss capital plan priorities. The focus of the Freestanding Committee of the Whole meeting

in February was to have Council deliberate the general fund operating budget and to set the property tax increase for 2023.

At that time the Provincial Government had announced a \$1 billion grant to be provided to municipal governments to support capital infrastructure projects. The actual amount the City would receive and the acceptable uses of the funds had not been disclosed. Since then, the Province has announced that the City of Mission will receive \$8,839,000 as part of the Growing Communities Fund grant program.

Council adopted the City of Mission 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan Bylaw 6159-2023 at the March 20, 2023 Regular Council meeting. This was done to ensure there was sufficient time to prepare the Property Tax Rates bylaw required to be adopted by May 15, 2023 even though the capital plan and Council's priorities had not been discussed.

On May 29, 2023 at a Special Council meeting, staff presented a report that provided an amended capital plan, the estimated reserve balances and a list of new initiatives Council could consider adding to the capital plan.

Discussion and Analysis

At the May 29, 2023 Special Council Meeting a following resolution was passed that stated:

That the following list of capital plan initiatives be included as an expenditure in the City of Mission Capital Plan 2023 to 2027:

1. *\$2,000,000 to cover the Centennial Park lacrosse box and transition it to a multi-use space;*
2. *\$1,500,000 for an additional spray park (incl. parking, washrooms);*
3. *\$1,000,000 to support a youth Foundry;*
4. *\$1,000,000 to support Housing initiatives;*
5. *\$2,000,000 for Clarke Foundation Theatre renovations;*
6. *\$25,000 for the Fraser River Heritage Park Garbage Compound;*
7. *\$200,000 for Arts and Culture initiatives; and*
8. *\$850,000 for waterfront dockside flood protection (detailed design).*

And a further resolution pass passed that stated:

That \$1,500,000 be made available to support the implementation of the future Centennial Park Master Plan.

When preparing the reports for the May 29, 2023 Council meeting, several other amendments to the capital plan were identified that staff recommend Council consider for inclusion in the 2023 to 2027 Capital Plan. These amendments were not included in Schedule E of the report – “Capital Initiatives not in the current plan”. They are:

- Adding a project for Burial Platforms for \$8,000 to be funded from the Cemetery Reserve. Burial platforms are used to support the internment excavation and well as an additional cover to secure the open excavation as interments are dug several days in advance. The newer platforms also have a stepped edge reducing the chance of someone tripping during a service.
- Increasing the Enterprise Application System budget by \$100,000 to be funded from the Unappropriated Accumulated Surplus. Originally, staff thought the new financial system could be implemented by the finance staff without the need to bring in additional resources to perform some current tasks. This has proven to be challenging for the staff. Some

tasks are falling behind and stress levels are increasing. It is recommended that an increase in the Enterprise Application System budget be approved to allow for the hiring of an accounting clerk for a time-durated term to perform routine tasks as required while the full-time staff are learning, testing and implementing the new financial software.

- Increasing the CCTV System Upgrade at the RCMP Detachment by \$20,000 to be funded from the Public Safety Reserve. Inspector Lewko, Officer in Charge at the Mission RCMP Detachment has received an update on the cost of upgrading the CCTV for both the cell block and to add additional exterior outer perimeter cameras. The estimated cost is now \$90,000 to complete this work. The total cost of the project will likely cost more than \$90,000 if the cell block was done now and the exterior at another time.
- Adding a project for Front Counter Security Enhancement at Community Policing Office for \$25,000 to be funded from the Public Safety Reserve. This project will enhance the safety and security of those working within the office. Feedback from our Crime Prevention Coordinator and volunteers is that there has been an increase of unwanted persons walking into the Crime Prevention Office (CPO) causing issues. Those in the office feel the demographics of the Downtown core are changing and that there are more safety issues. The request is to build up the front counter area to make it more secure, including having a proper sized gate. At this time, anyone could walk in and open or jump over the gate.

Staff are recommending the capital plan changes listed above be approved by Council and that the 2023 to 2027 Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

During the May 29, 2023 Special Council meeting, the Director of Engineering and Public Works informed Council that the City will be unable to complete Walkways and Sidewalks workplan within the existing budget. Rather than recommending a significant increase (\$500,000) to the 2023 budget, staff are recommending the City proceed with the Silverdale sidewalk project (Silverdale Ave from Rook Cres to Wren St.) and defer the Cherry Street projects (Cherry Ave at Alberta McMahon School and Cherry Ave from Harms St to Edwins S. Richards School). Deferring these projects may have a cascading affect on other projects scheduled in future years.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are discussed throughout this report.

Communication

Staff will prepare a report in early 2024 detailing all of the changes made to the Financial Plan approved by Council between the time the original bylaw was adopted and the end of the fiscal year.

Summary and Conclusion

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of the projects Council resolved to be included in the 5-year capital plan at the May 29, 2023 Special Council Meeting and to seek approval for some other changes recommended by staff and detailed in this report. All of the changes to the financial plan are listed in the recommendation section of this report.

Report Prepared by: Doug Stewart, Director of Finance

Reviewed by: Kerri Onken, Deputy Collector and Treasurer

Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer