

Green Municipal Fund Electric Buses

The City of Saskatoon (City) received approval for funding under the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) for an electric bus pilot project. City Council approval for an increase to the capital project is required for the funding amount.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Finance recommend to City Council that Capital Project 0583 – Replace/Refurbish Bus Project be increased by \$234,300 which will be funded by the Green Municipal Fund grant.

BACKGROUND

In December 2019, the City received approval for funding from the GMF for a pilot project to test the technical and financial efficiency of electric buses. This grant provided by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities supports environmentally sustainable feasibility studies and pilot projects. Successful initiatives are expected to have high environmental benefits and are projects that can be scaled up and replicated by other communities.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

With the support of the GMF grant, the City will lease an electric bus and charging station for a trial period of one year. The project will study the performance of the equipment, run lifecycle and financial analysis and also report on the recommendations. It is expected that this pilot project will remove 50.3 tonnes of CO₂ produced from a diesel engine for the testing year.

Depending on the project's success and available funding, the goal will be to replace ten buses a year from our current fleet with electric buses. Once the entire fleet has been replaced with electric buses, it is anticipated that 5,130 tonnes of CO₂ will be reduced annually.

If the project is successful and more electric buses are added to the fleet in the future, operating efficiencies are expected through increased reliability. In addition, the air exchangers within the storage facilities would be required less as fewer diesel buses would be in the fleet.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total project costs are \$468,600 of which a maximum of \$234,300 will be from the GMF grant. It is expected that the Saskatchewan Research Council will contribute \$65,000 in-kind towards completion of the project analysis. The costs incurred by the Saskatchewan Research Council will not be reflected in the capital project. The City's portion will be funded through previously approved funds within Capital Project 0583 – Replace/Refurbish Bus Project. The project includes a 10% contingency amount, or approximately \$42,000.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The use of electric buses will significantly reduce the amount of CO₂ production from the civic fleet. Additionally, odor and soot will be reduced as the diesel exhaust will be removed as more electric buses are introduced into the fleet. This will be a benefit at bus stops and terminals where engines sit idle for extended periods of time.

There are no privacy, legal, or social implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

No further steps are required.

REPORT APPROVAL

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