

Proposed 2023 Capital Project: Preparation of New Housing Strategy

This project will include several initiatives to gather input and assess appropriate data to inform the development of a new housing strategy for the City of Saskatoon. This will include a jurisdictional scan to identify best practices and innovative approaches used across Canada, preparation of a Housing Needs Assessment for Saskatoon, undertaking community engagement activities and development of a proposed new housing strategy.

General Comments

Preparation of a new housing strategy will be informed by the following three initiatives:

- Housing Needs Assessment – this would include review and documentation of housing resources in Saskatoon, as well as an analysis of population growth and income trends. This would help to understand current state of the housing continuum, and potential future pressure points that would need to be addressed in a new housing strategy. It is expected that an external consultant with specialized expertise will be procured to complete this work.

This work is estimated to cost between \$30,000 to \$40,000.

- Best Practices Review – a jurisdictional review of Canadian municipalities, building on existing work. This would identify options, leading practices and tools available to support the housing goals in Saskatoon. This work is proposed to be conducted internally by Administration, through the addition of a temporary, project-related full-time employee in Planning and Development.
- Engagement - Administration anticipates that development of a new housing strategy, at this time, will require broader community consultation efforts and additional time to ensure rights holders and stakeholders can appropriately participate, which would be conducted by internal resources, if available, or contracted resources, if required.

This is estimated to require approximately \$50,000 for engagement activities and support.

An additional contingency of \$10,000 is also included to provide flexibility for additional engagement, data analysis or staff resources as may be required.

Internal Staff Resources

Additional internal staff resources in Planning and Development will be required to prepare and analyze options, coordinate the above activities, and prepare the new housing strategy.

To conduct this work, while continuing with current operations, two options are proposed. In both options, an additional 0.5 FTE from the Local Area Planning Program is also proposed to be assigned to this work, in order to have sufficient support. The existing funding for this position is proposed to be used. The following costs are estimated for the two options:

	Approximate Cost for 16 months*
CURRENT FUNDING	
One senior and one junior staff	\$255,000 (already funded)
OPTIONS	
Option 1: Adjustment in Assigned Staffing	
Change from a senior and junior staff to two senior positions (total cost)	\$302,000
Support provided by a 0.5 FTE junior position funded from Local Area Planning	\$55,000 (already funded)
Total New Staff Funding Required:	Increase of \$47,000

Option 2: Add One Senior Staff	
Maintain senior and junior positions as currently funded	\$255,000
Add additional senior position	\$145,000
Support provided by a 0.5 FTE junior position funded from Local Area Planning	\$55,000 (already funded)
Total New Staff Funding Required:	Increase of \$145,000

*Salary and payroll costs

TOTAL ESTIMATED CAPITAL PROJECT VALUE:

Option 1: \$147,000

Option 2: \$245,000

Operating Impact

No operating impact is anticipated during project development. Development and approval of a new Housing Strategy will include identification of operating impacts for future consideration.

Special Note

Administration will also investigate other external funding sources, such as funding through Saskatchewan Housing Corporation and the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation.