

Arts, Culture and Events Venues Business Line Budgetary Information

ISSUE

As the City of Saskatoon (City) heads into its planning for the 2024 and 2025 Business Plan and Budget Cycle, there continues to be several budgetary pressures the City is facing. This report will provide information and Administrative recommendations on the Arts, Culture and Events Venues Business Line.

This process has been established so that City Council can provide early direction to the Administration, on what to include in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget which will be considered by City Council in November 2023 during the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget deliberation meeting.

BACKGROUND

At its March 15, 2023 meeting when considering the [2023-2025 Budgetary Pressures and Trends](#) Report, Governance and Priorities Committee (GPC) resolved in part:

“That Administration report back on a potential special budget meeting process to address some of the budgetary challenges and pressures for the upcoming two-year budget cycle. That this report include recommendations on using the existing Governance and Priorities Committee/Finance Committee meeting schedule vs. having special budget/Finance committee meetings and recommendations for organizing these special budget meetings based on departmental budgets or based on service lines or some combination.”

At its April 12, 2023 meeting when considering the [2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Process Report](#), GPC resolved:

“That Option 3 be approved, and the City Clerk’s office be directed to schedule Special Budget Meetings for the presentation of Business Line-based reports if the Governance and Priorities Committee Capacity does not exist as outlined in the April 12, 2023 report of the Chief Financial Office.”

CURRENT STATUS

The multi-year business plan and budget process includes the following key steps:

1. Develop the cost to maintain existing services considering city growth, inflation pressures, and updated revenue estimates. This step is also used to present and discuss required corrections of base budgets and phase-in of funding plans.
2. Provide a summary of the information from Step 1 to GPC.
3. Use cross-divisional teams to discuss City Council’s strategic priorities and develop options to achieve these priorities.

4. Present a list of Business Plan Options to GPC for prioritization.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Each business line report presented will have the same general outline. The categories in each report will be:

1. Expenditure Overview
2. Service Level Review
3. Pandemic Challenges
4. 2024/2025 Pressures
5. Potential Options

Appendix 1 includes the information for the Arts, Culture and Events Venues business line. The Arts, Culture and Events Business Line includes the City's contributions to TCU Place, SaskTel Centre and Remai Modern. The operational revenues and expenditures of each venue are not included and are managed by each individual entity.

OPTIONS

Appendix 1 provides the full information regarding the options available to Committee.

Option 1 - Reduce the phase-in of the CBCM Contribution for Remai Modern

Option 2 – Operating Grant Changes

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Priorities Committee direct Administration to include the following options in the 2024/2025 Preliminary Business Plan and Budget:

1. Option 1 - Reduce the phase-in of the CBCM contribution for Remai Modern by \$41,000 in 2024 and reassess in future budgets.

RATIONALE

The provided recommendation aims to strike a balance in addressing the significant cost pressures the City is facing heading into 2024/2025 with a more reasonable property tax increase.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of this business line will be deliberated at the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget Deliberations meeting.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

NEXT STEPS

Any direction from Committee on this report will be incorporated into the 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget process. Decisions for 2024/2025 Business Plan and Budget will be made by City Council during the budget deliberation meeting which will

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be held on November 28-30, 2023 where the budget implications of all business lines will be deliberated. It is important to note this report does not include the Downtown Event and Entertainment District and decisions on that project will be made by City Council in the coming months.

APPENDICES

1. Arts, Culture and Events Business Line

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Kari Smith, Director of Finance

Reviewed by: Clae Hack, Chief Financial Officer

Approved by: Jeff Jorgenson, City Manager Report Approval

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