

Natural Resources Canada Funding for Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (City) was successful in an application to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) for the Saskatoon Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Project as part of its [Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative](#) (ZEVAI). A budget adjustment is required to add approved grant funds to Capital Project P.10015 Electric Vehicles (EV) Adoption Roadmap.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Environment, Utilities, and Corporate Services recommends to City Council that Capital Project P.10015 EV Adoption Roadmap be increased by \$112,500, funded from NRCan.

BACKGROUND

In November 2021, during the City's Business Plan and Budget Deliberations, funding was approved for P.10015, EV Adoption Roadmap, including \$220,000 in 2022 and \$175,000 in 2023. The approved capital project's description included developing an EV Adoption Roadmap, pursuing short-term opportunities as part of existing civic fleet replacement strategies, expanding public infrastructure pilot and education programs, and pursuing funding opportunities and partnerships where available.

In November 2022, City Council approved a budget adjustment to P.10015, including:

- An additional \$139,000 funded from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); and
- A decrease of \$35,000 that was transferred to P.01957 for the community EV charging pilot.

At its [Regular Business meeting on September 27, 2023](#), City Council resolved that:

1. The Administration be directed to submit applications to Natural Resources Canada's Climate Change Adaptation Program and the Zero Emission Vehicle Awareness Initiative (ZEVAI);
2. That if the applications are successful, the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the agreements under the Corporate Seal.

An application was submitted to NRCan's ZEVAI on September 26, 2023, and the Administration was informed that it was successful in March 2024. The Contribution Agreement was executed on April 15, 2024.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The City was approved to deliver the ZEVAI project using NRCan funds, which includes activities to address EV adoption barriers to those living in multi-unit residential buildings, those with English as an additional language, and older residents, to increase EV adoption in these historically underserved groups and the general population. A budget adjustment in Capital Project P.10015, EV Adoption Roadmap of \$112,500 is required to add the NRCan portion of funding.

Capital Project P.10015 was established with funding approved to develop the EV Adoption Roadmap (now called the ZEV Roadmap) and to begin implementation of the Roadmap, for instance, developing additional charging infrastructure and continuing education. The project has sufficient funding to fund the City's portion of costs under the NRCan program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are included within the report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications identified. The project includes development of a web-based portal, and privacy impacts will be assessed before launch.

Increased adoption of electric vehicles is anticipated to achieve multiple co-benefits such as improved air quality and health, reduced noise pollution, community engagement, job creation, and technological awareness.

NEXT STEPS

1. Develop an online information hub on EVs.
2. A web-based portal will be procured to conduct virtual matchmaking and networking between EV-related solution providers and solution seekers.

Report Approval

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