

Code Acceleration Fund

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon (City) was successful in a partnership application with the Province of Saskatchewan under the Code Acceleration Fund (CAF). Approval is required to have the Mayor and City Clerk to have the authority to execute the agreement under the Corporate Seal.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Service recommend to City Council that:

1. The Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute the Partnership Agreement from the Province of Saskatchewan for the Code Acceleration Fund under the Corporate Seal; and
2. That if required, the Senior Financial Business Partner be granted delegated authority to sign and submit progress reports and financial claims related to the program.

BACKGROUND

The CAF was created by the Government of Canada as part of its action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption to fight climate change. The three objectives of the CAF are as follows:

- “Accelerate the adoption and implementation of the highest feasible energy performance tiers of the national model energy codes or other high-performance building codes, such as net-zero emissions codes;
- Promote higher rates of compliance with adopted codes; and
- Build capacity and support market preparedness for ambitious codes adoption”

The CAF program has approximately \$30 million in funds available until March 31, 2027. The Province of Saskatchewan applied for funding with the Cities of Saskatoon, Regina and both City’s Home Builders Associations listed as partners.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Under the Partnership Agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon would hire a temporary FTE to become an energy code specialist. The specialist will work with the Province and project partners to create an education program for builders and tradespeople. The work would also include creation of Saskatchewan Energy Code Guide with a focus of giving stakeholders the information and knowledge to meet energy code requirements throughout the province. This work also includes working with stakeholders to develop a strategy and roadmap to advance the adoption and implementation of the energy performance tiers, supporting the advancement initiatives within of the City of Saskatoon Low Emissions Community Plan.

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City Council approval is required to give the Mayor and City Clerk the ability to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City. Additionally, more funding programs are requiring a resolution of City Council to give Administration the ability to submit claims and project status reports on the program. Administration is also requesting approval that the Senior Financial Business Partner be granted delegated authority to sign and submit any progress reports and financial claims related to the project to meet all the administrative requirements of the funding program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total cost of the City's project is \$375,417, 100% funded through the Code Acceleration Fund's partnership agreement with the Province of Saskatchewan. As the project will be funded through operating, no budget adjustment is required as project expenditures related to the required FTE will be recovered through the partnership agreement funding. Funding for the program by provincial fiscal year is estimated to be as follows:

Eligible Expenditures	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$63,750	\$130,050	\$132,651	\$326,451
Overhead	\$ 9,562	\$ 19,507	\$ 19,897	\$ 48,966
Total by Fiscal Year	\$73,312	\$149,557	\$152,548	\$375,417

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

NEXT STEPS

Upon execution of the Agreement, Administration will proceed in the hiring of an FTE to perform the required work under the program.

REPORT APPROVAL

Written by: Jeremy Meinema, Senior Financial Business Partner

Reviewed by: Kara Fagnou, Director of Building Standards
Kari Smith, Director of Finance

Approved by: Clae Hack, Chief Financial Officer