

City Council Travel and Training Expenses - 2024

ISSUE

This report provides a summary of Councillors' Travel and Training expenses for 2024. A summary from the Mayor's Office is also provided.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Governance and Priorities Committee:

1. Approve the allocation of travel and training expenditures for 2024; and
2. Forward this report to City Council for information, in accordance with Council Policy No. C01-023, City Councillors' Travel and Training.

BACKGROUND

Section 3.4 of [Policy No. C01-023 – City Councillors' Travel and Training](#), states that the City Clerk will, on an annual basis, prepare a report listing the total cost of each Councillor's Common and Individual Travel and Training.

Since 2010, the expenses of all members of City Council, including the Mayor, have been posted to the City's website annually in order to demonstrate City Council's commitment to transparency.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

Individual Travel and Training

Each Councillor is allotted funds annually for general travel and training, such as attendance at the annual Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (SUMA) convention and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) conference. The total amount budgeted for 2024 for all Councillors was \$35,000. The total expenditures, less GST, were \$9,595.36. Appendix 1 sets out the details for each individual Councillor.

Common (Appointed) Travel and Training

A common travel and training budget is provided for Councillors to attend annual conferences or board meetings of any organization to which they are appointed as an official representative of the City of Saskatoon, or as a Board member, such as Canadian Urban Transit Association or FCM Boards and Committees. The total amount budgeted for 2024 was \$24,000. The total expenditures, less GST, were \$7,560.89. Appendix 2 sets out the details for each individual Councillor.

As per Sections 2.1 g) and 2.2 e) of Policy No. C01-023, the amount in the above Individual and Common budgets is pro-rated during an election year in order to ensure that sufficient funds remain for the newly elected Councillors. This means sitting

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Councillors were allocated \$29,050 (\$2,905 per Councillor) for individual travel as 10/12 of the allowance. Newly elected and re-elected Councillors are allocated an additional \$5,950 (\$595 per Councillor) as 2/12 of the allowance. Similarly, sitting Councillors were allocated \$19,920 for common/appointed travel as 10/12 of the allowance. Newly elected and re-elected Councillors were allocated an additional \$4,080 as 2/12 of the allowance.

Pension and Other Travel and Training

There are various Boards that Councillors are either appointed to or have a vested interest in (ie. on-appointed Pension Boards) that fall outside of the above travel and training budgets.

A \$7,000 budget was approved for 2024 for those Councillors that do not sit on a pension board to obtain pension training. For 2024, there were no expenditures to report.

Other travel and training expenditures that may be provided to Councillors are sometimes paid from other sources. For example, if a Councillor is a Trustee on a pension board, those expenses are paid for from the Plan (not City budget). Similarly, any travel or training for Councillors that are appointed to the Board of Police Commissioners are paid through the Saskatoon Police budget (not City budget). Those expenses are not provided as part of this reporting.

Mayor's Travel and Training

Appendix 3 lists the 2024 travel expenses for the former Mayor, Charlie Clark as well as the newly elected Mayor, Cynthia Block. The total expenditures of the Mayor position only, less GST, was \$8,491.70. It should be noted the attached summary for the Mayor lists car allowance expenses, which is the subject of a separate report.

APPENDICES

1. Individual Travel and Training 2024 - Councillors
2. Common (Appointed) Travel and Training 2024 – Councillors
3. Mayor Travel Expenses – 2024

Report Approval

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