



MUNICIPALITY OF THAMES CENTRE

REPORT NO. CS-013-24

TO: Mayor and Members of Council
FROM: Director of Community Services and Facilities
MEETING DATE: October 21, 2024
SUBJECT: **Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund (CSRIF) - Grant Application**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. CS-013-24 **BE RECEIVED** for information;

AND THAT Council **ENDORSE** proceeding with applying for the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund Grant for the Replacement of the North Ice Pad.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the report is to advise Council of the grant opportunity currently available via the Province's "Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund" (CSRIF), and to request a resolution from Council that endorses applying for this funding, for this project, as this endorsement is a requirement to apply for this funding.

BACKGROUND:

The ice rink on the north side of the FlightExec Centre, known as the CANUSA rink, was opened in 1974. This rink is still the original concrete pad, along with the original refrigeration lines that run below this pad. The expected life of these pads is 50 years, meaning that this asset has just exceeded its' expected useful life as of this year.

COMMENTS:

The "Repair & Rehabilitation" stream of the CSRIF program appears to be a good fit for this particular project. This grant opportunity closes on Tuesday October 29, 2024. Staff are working with GrantMatch Corp. on this application. This funding will cover up to 50% of the cost for municipalities, to a maximum of \$1 million. The estimated cost of this project is \$2,260,000 at this time, with prices likely to be subject to inflation by the time we can issue a Request for Proposals (which would not occur until this project is approved in the budget, and potentially also not until grant funding is confirmed). As a result, this grant opportunity could save the Municipality \$1,000,000, for a project which is in our best interest to complete sooner than later.

Our ice service contractor, CIMCO Refrigeration, has recommended this project take place in 2025, and is also recommendation #18 of the updated 2023 Community Services & Facilities Master Plan. A decision not to proceed with this project in the upcoming off-season for this rink (April to August 2025) would result in an increased risk for unexpected leaks and failures of the refrigeration system which runs under the cement pad. With this rink floor system being under concrete, it is impossible to know the exact condition and the chance of major leaks or failures. Best case scenario, a leak or failure would result in 1 to 2 weeks of the rink being closed during the season, and an unexpected repair bill. Worst case scenario, a large failure could result in a need to do the complete replacement in the middle of the season, with such a project not having been budgeted for and not having any grant funds to assist with the cost. That scenario would more than likely result in the balance of that ice season being cancelled on that ice pad, which would have significant impact on all our ice user groups, most notably minor hockey and the local skating club.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

If successful with this grant opportunity, the substantial cost of this \$2M+ project can be almost cut in half. The remaining costs could be incorporated into the 2025 Capital Budget along with the reprioritization of other Community Services & Facilities capital projects. As this project is not growth related it is not eligible for development charges, however, a portion of this project could be funded through the Recreation capital reserves (exact amount to be reviewed if successful with the grant application and in relation to the other projects identified in the 2023 Community Services & Facilities Master Plan).

STRATEGIC PLAN LINK

Pillar: *Active Living*

Goal: *Increase the accessibility and programing of recreational services, especially to community youth and seniors*

CONSULTATION:

Emily Schinbein, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer
Devon Brown, Parks & Facilities Manager
Adam Sanderson, Project Manager
Nick Favero, GrantMatch Corp.
Jay Szeto, CIMCO Refrigeration

REFERENCES:

2023 Community Services & Facilities Master Plan

Prepared by: S. MacDonald, Director of Community Services & Facilities

Reviewed by: D. Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer