



REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-016

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: August 7, 2020

Subject: Grant Request – Groundbirch Cemetery Committee

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$1,000 payable from Electoral Area E, Cemeteries Grant-in-Aid, to be issued to Groundbirch Cemetery Committee to assist with the care and maintenance of the lawn at the Groundbirch Cemetery.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Groundbirch Cemetery Committee is comprised of community volunteers who donate their time to ensure the cemetery remains in good condition and is well looked after. They are not registered with the *Societies Act* as they have a limited number of volunteers; however, they do operate as a not-for-profit group. This request meets the criteria as outlined in Section 1.1 Applicant Eligibility of the Cemetery Funding Policy which states:

The Rural Budgets Administration Committee recognizes that community groups who care for cemeteries are often very small and operate with a very limited number of volunteers; therefore the Committee is willing to wave the eligibility criteria that all applicants must be a registered not-for-profit society in good standing with the *Societies Act* of BC. In order to apply for grant funding under this policy, the applicant must meet one of the following criteria:

- a) A registered Not-for-Profit society in good standing with the *Society Act* of BC; or
- b) A volunteer organization consisting of community members who is financially and administratively sound which can be demonstrated by providing meeting minutes, financial statements and/or proof of bank account; and
- c) Must operate in the Peace River Regional District.

The Regional District has supported the Groundbirch Cemetery Committee since 2013 with an annual grant contribution of \$1,000 to assist with the cost of maintaining the lawns at the Groundbirch Cemetery. For further details, please see the attached grant application.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Groundbirch Cemetery Committee and provide no grant funding to assist with the care and maintenance of the lawn at the Groundbirch Cemetery.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

- The 2020 financial commitment for Cemeteries Grant-in-Aid, Electoral Area E is \$36,740 which has a remaining balance of \$35,500 as of August 7, 2020.
- Funding for Cemeteries Grant-in-Aid is provided through Function 285, Cemeteries B, C, D, and E.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The applicant will be notified in writing of Rural Budgets Administration Committee decision and made aware of the Regional District's Funding Recognition Guidelines.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None.

Attachments:

1. Attach - Grant Application – Groundbirch Cemetery Committee
2. Attach - Cemetery Funding Policy.