



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-037

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: November 5, 2020

**Subject: Grant Request – Montney Cemetery Committee**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$30,000, payable from Electoral Area B Fair Share, to be issued to the Montney Cemetery Committee for the purchase and installation of a columbarium at the Montney Cemetery.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

The Montney Cemetery Committee is requesting a grant in the amount of \$30,000 to purchase and install a columbarium at the Montney Cemetery located in Electoral Area B of the Peace River Regional District. The Cemetery Committee reached this decision based on the number of enquiries received regarding the availability of a columbarium and the limited number of burial plots available. If approved for grant funding, the Cemetery Committee will install a forty-eight niche columbarium at the Montney Cemetery for a total cost of \$30,000.

Montney Cemetery Committee is a group of volunteers that operates and maintains the Montney Cemetery. The Committee functions as a not-for-profit organization; however they are not registered with the *Societies Act of BC*. The group holds monthly meetings and an Annual General meeting each year. They have an established treasurer to maintain their financial records and banking and meet the definition for funding as per Section 4 of the attached Cemetery Grants Policy.

The Rural Budgets Administration Committee (RBAC) has approved grants in prior years as outlined in the following information:

- In 2019, District of Chetwynd, a grant contribution of \$9,747.50 payable from Electoral Area E Peace River Agreements, Spending Item #4 - Assistance to other organizations.
- In 2015, Groundbirch Historical Society, a grant contribution of up to \$30,000 payable from Electoral Area E, Cemetery Grants-in-Aid.
- In 2013, Rolla Community Cemetery Committee, a grant contribution of \$30,000 payable from Electoral Area D, Cemetery Grants-in-Aid.
- In 2013, Sunrise Valley Mountain Cemetery, a grant contribution of \$5,000 payable from Electoral Area D Fair Share.

Written correspondence dated January 21, 2020 from Bruce Baxter was received at the RBAC held on February 20, 2020 and is included as an attachment as it supports the Cemetery Committee's request for a columbarium at the Montney Cemetery.

For further information and supporting documentation can be found in the attached grant application.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from Montney Cemetery Committee and provide no grant contribution towards the purchase and installation of a columbarium at the Montney Cemetery.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

As of October 31, 2020 the balance available after the remaining commitments in Electoral Area B Fair Share was \$995,290.02.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

The applicant will be notified in writing of Rural Budgets Administration Committee decision and, if grant funding is approved, will be asked to recognize Regional District for its contribution.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

None at this time.

**Attachments:**

1. Grant Application – Montney Cemetery Committee
2. January 21, 2020 Letter Correspondence – Columbarium for Montney Cemetery
3. Cemetery Grants Policy