



# REPORT

To: Rural Budgets Administration Committee

Report Number: FN-RBAC-040

From: Teri Vetter, Chief Financial Officer

Date: December 11, 2020

**Subject: Grant Request – District of Chetwynd, Economic Development**

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee authorize a grant in the amount of \$30,000, for 2020 only, payable from Electoral Area E Fair Share, to be issued to the District of Chetwynd to assist with operational expenses for Economic Development.

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

In December 2019, the District of Chetwynd submitted a grant application to request a multi-year grant, in the amount of \$30,000 per year from 2020 to 2022, to assist with operational costs for Economic Development. The grant application was forwarded to the January 23, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting to be reviewed as part of the 2020 Economic Development assessment process. Director Rose spoke to the application and requested that it be removed from the process as it related directly to an agreement that Electoral Area E had with the District of Chetwynd to provide financial assistance for the purpose of Economic Development. The application was removed and no further action was taken to fund the application or include a budget commitment in the 2020 Annual Budget.

As a result, the application is now being brought before the Rural Budgets Administration Committee to approve and pay out a grant contribution, for 2020 only, to the District of Chetwynd to honor both the grant request and the past practice of providing grant funding from Electoral Area E. A recommendation could not be made to support a multi-year grant request as there was budget commitment included as part of Function 140 - Economic Development for 2020; and furthermore, authority under the existing Supplementary Letters Patent 28 – Division XX1 Industrial Development Commission dated February 24, 1978, does not allow the PRRD to continue to provide Economic Development Grants as has been done in prior years.

The District of Chetwynd submits this request for funding annually each year. Electoral Area E has provided a total of \$474,000 in grant contributions to the District of Chetwynd to support operational costs for Economic Development since 2007.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

1. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee respectfully deny the grant application from the District of Chetwynd and provide no grant contribution to assist with the operational costs for Economic Development.
2. That the Rural Budgets Administration Committee provide further direction.

**STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:**

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):**

As of November 30, 2020 the balance remaining for Electoral Area E Fair Share is \$2,140,134.19.

**COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):**

If approved, the grant payment will be expedited and paid out to the recipient. If denied, a letter will be sent to the District of Chetwynd as follow up.

**OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):**

Staff will work to create an agreement with the District of Chetwynd and Electoral Area E Director to ensure that future amounts can be budgeted for.

**Attachments:**

1. Grant Application – District of Chetwynd, Economic Development

**External Links:**

1. 2020 Economic Development Grant Request – [See Item 5.3](#)