

# Municipal District of Bonnyville No. 87

## Request for Decision (RFD)

**Meeting:** Regular Meeting of Council  
**Meeting Date:** December 12, 2023  
**Originated By:** Scott Kovatch, Economic Development Specialist  
**Title:** Northern and Regional Economic Development Provincial Grant Application

### **PROPOSAL & BACKGROUND**

Administration is seeking a resolution of Council to support the submission of a Northern and Regional Economic Development (NRED) provincial grant application to undertake initiatives that support the 2022 M.D. of Bonnyville Business and Industry Growth Strategy. Specifically, the application includes the completion of two project deliverables – a Regional Industrial and Commercial Gap Analysis and an Airport Development Economic Impact Assessment – and a sponsorship request of the upcoming M.D. of Bonnyville 2024 SiteLink Forum Tour and Conference event in September 2024.

### **DISCUSSION ON BENEFITS, DISADVANTAGES & OPTIONS**

The Regional Industrial and Commercial Gap Analysis budget is \$50,000. The benefit of an Industrial and Commercial Gap Analysis is the identification of potential areas for physical development as well as the types of businesses best suited for development in those areas. The analysis will also identify our competitors for those same businesses. The goal of any gap analysis is to help develop a plan to move the M.D. from its current state to its desired state of development. In this case the M.D. desires to fill any/all industrial and commercial gaps in the community and build out the industry sectors identified in the Business and Industry Growth Strategy. The Gap Analysis paired with robust up to date industrial and commercial listings will create a distinct investment attraction advantage over other communities that do not have the gap analysis and robust real estate listings. The proposed Industrial Commercial Gap Analysis research will provide focus to establish appropriate investment attraction activities to pursue specific targets.

The Airport Development Economic Impact Assessment budget is \$30,000. The goal of the Airport Development Economic Impact Assessment is to establish and determine the return on investment (ROI) via increased industrial lost sales at the M.D. of Bonnyville Regional Airport and the adjacent Aurora Borealis Industrial subdivision. The Airport Development Impact Assessment will be based on the addition of sewer services, water services, and improved road maintenance to the Regional Airport and Aurora Borealis subdivisions.

The 2024 M.D. of Bonnyville SiteLink Forum Tour and Conference event sponsorship request is \$10,000.

The NRED grant is a 50 percent matching grant with a maximum eligible project cost total of \$200,000.

### **REFERENCE TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Goal 1: Building a viable and diversified regional economy.

Objective 1: Develop and economic development strategy inclusive of business and industrial attraction, retention, and expansion while maintaining our rural influences.

### **REFERENCE TO PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

n/a

## **COSTS & SOURCE OF FUNDING**

Grant request value: \$50,000

Sources of Funding:

1. Two project deliverables: NRED grant \$40,000; M.D. of Bonnyville \$40,000 to be funded from Cashflow Reserves.
2. SiteLink 2024 Forum Tour and Conference sponsorship: NRED grant \$10,000; M.D. matching dollars from the 2024 Operating Budget

Should the grant application not be successful, the two project deliverables will not be undertaken in 2024 however the SiteLink Forum Tour and Conference will proceed.

## **COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY**

n/a

## **ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDED ACTION**

THAT Council approves a grant application to the Government of Alberta Northern and Regional Economic Development Grant Program for the completion of a Regional Industrial and Commercial Gap Analysis and Airport Development Economic Impact Assessment at a cost of up to \$80,000 as well as an additional \$10,000 for sponsorship of the M.D. of Bonnyville SiteLink 2024 Forum Event.

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

1. THAT Council approves a grant application to the Government of Alberta Northern and Regional Economic Development Grant Program for the completion of a Regional Industrial and Commercial Gap Analysis and Airport Development Economic Impact Assessment at a cost of up to \$80,000 as well as an additional \$10,000 for sponsorship of the M.D. of Bonnyville SiteLink 2024 Forum Event.
2. THAT Council accepts the Northern and Regional Economic Development Provincial Grant Application Report as information.
3. THAT Council requests Administration to bring back additional information regarding the Northern and Regional Economic Development grant program to a future meeting of Council, as discussed.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Northern and Regional Economic Development Grant Application .docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Dec 5, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Esther Quiambao

Stephanie Severin