



MEMORANDUM

TO: Council

FROM: Alain Muise, CPA, CAO

SUBJECT: Funding Applications and Opportunities Update

DATE: February 28, 2024

Below is a status update on funding applications and opportunities. This memo will be updated regularly, and any errors or omissions shall be rectified in a future report.

Sustainable Services Growth Fund - Provincial

The SSGF was a onetime grant program issued by Municipal affairs in March 2023. Funding can support up to 100% of costs in the following areas: Accessibility, Active transportation, Sidewalks, specific housing initiatives.

Funding obtained: \$475,000 (rounded).

Invested: \$123,000 (to end of Feb 2024).

Remaining: \$352,000

Anticipated areas of funding – Housing study (if federal application is unsuccessful), Multiuse pathway studies for Plymouth and Tusket (if provincial funding is unsuccessful).

General comments: All three studies will be funded one way or another to push housing and active transportation priorities further.

Municipal Capital Growth Program - Provincial

Funding obtained: Awaiting announcements for funding. 2 applications submitted, one for Tusket Treatment plant expansion, and the other for East Pubnico Tank retrofit. Project supports wastewater, brownfields, accessibility, climate change initiatives.

Amounts requested: Tusket \$490,000 for \$ 980,000 project.

East Pubnico \$750,000 for \$1,500,000 project. (ACOA confirmed \$375,000)

General comments: Funding announcements are expected in days, with fund issuance as early as March 2024. The Province of NS increased funding from 30 million to 100 million recently to meet the needs of municipalities.



Connect 2 Program - Provincial

Funding obtained: Applications to be submitted in days, due March 4, 2024. 2 applications shall be submitted, one for Active Transportation study for Tusket and another for Plymouth. These two potential multiuse pathways were considered highest priorities in our Active Transportation Plan. Studies are a prerequisite for major trail funding.

Amounts requested: Tusket \$52,500 for a \$70,000 project.
Plymouth \$45,000 for a \$60,000 project.

General comments: Expecting some success here, unsure whether one will be selected over the other. Both have support from the community. The Municipal Capital Growth Program will kick in funding if one is not successful. These studies are happening in 2024.

Research Knowledge Initiative – Federal

Funding obtained: Awaiting announcement. 1 submission for innovative solutions for the housing crisis in our region. Funding is for innovative solutions to understanding and addressing unique local housing issues. Acadian community and needs were highlighted.

Amount requested: \$200,000 for a \$267,000 project.

General comments: Probability of success is measured low despite good application. Federal funding is limited to 10 million for this initiative which leaves little to none for Argyle. This is a 2-year project and would fund the hiring of a Housing Coordinator and perform a study to support this person's work. The study will be funded by MCGP if this is unsuccessful, and the salary by MODA.

Summer student funding – provincial and federal

Funding obtained: We have been pre-approved for Co-Op Education Incentive program funding for summer 2024. (16 weeks, starting April 29, 2024). We have a co-op student to fill this position. Multiple positions were applied for both at Courthouse/Archives and in Recreation. This is for subsidized hiring of summer students.

Amount requested: approx. \$35,000.

General comments: Both provincial and federal funding avenues were pursued and led by both departments. CMA 2024 was cited as an additional reason for staff hiring.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities–Green Municipal & Asset Management Funds – Federal

Funding obtained: Green fund \$ 452,114 (\$226,057 receivable), Asset Mgmt \$50,000 (o/s)

Invested: \$502,114 – all of it.



Awaiting final approval and fund release, both should be in weeks.

General comments: The Green Municipal Fund was obtained through the construction of our net zero energy administration building. The asset management fund was to subsidize our asset management plan that cost \$72,000.

Investing in Communities Infrastructure Program – ICIP – Federal/Provincial

Funding obtained: \$ 760,700 for \$1,042,000 total project cost.

Invested: \$760,700 – substantially completed project.

ICIP supports eligible projects such as water and wastewater, solid waste, climate change initiatives. It is an older funding model.

General comments: This funding supported the installation of 28 septic tank solutions for Wedgeport residents. This would be phase 3, phase 2 construction amounted to 42 units. These projects supported a longstanding environmental issue in Wedgeport due to inadequate lot sizing and treatment of septic waste.

Provincial Capital Investment Plan (PCAP) – Provincial

Funding obtained: \$75,000 for a \$150,000 project.

Invested: \$10,000

Funding is to support studies and smaller infrastructure projects. This funding supports the installation of an overflow and treatment of wastewater near the Red Cap in West Pubnico.

General comments: Project stalled due to no bidders last year, determined we would reset and try again in Spring 2024. Remaining \$75,000 shall be paid using Federal Gas Tax Funds (now called Canada Community Building Fund).

Acadian Affairs translation- language support – Provincial

Funding obtained: \$24,750 for \$49,500 in expenses, confirmed.

Acadian Affairs supports translation and similar needs of Acadian communities. Largest portion is to support e-voting software which will be bilingual.

General comments: High probability of some success. Announcement will be eminent.

Acadian Affairs – ACOA – CMA 2024 initiatives and interpretive panels

Funding obtained: \$256,300 for \$288,000 in expenses, combined, and confirmed.

Funding from various partners, federal, provincial, and regional to update Acadian Interpretive Panels and purchase CMA 2024 celebratory banners.

General comments: Funding will be for work to be completed before August 1, 2024.