



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Mariners Center capital request

Date: August 23, 2024

Vision statement

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Mission statement

Argyle invests time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.

Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and healthy communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.

Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities and helps celebrate its unique heritage and culture and welcomes new residents to our region.

CAO's Recommendation:

That the capital priorities as set by the board of directors of the Mariners Center be approved as requested, with a 15% contingency added to their \$36,957 request to fund their capital priorities.

Suggested motion:

Move that the Municipality of Argyle allocate \$42,500 for the 2024-25 fiscal year to the Mariners Center in support of their capital project request.

Background:

The Mariners Center's capital priorities and funding request was due on February 28, 2024. The date of their request is August 8th; thus, the board did not meet the deadline for financial requests as per our intermunicipal agreement.

Nevertheless, it is known that there are a number of capital issues that the Mariners Center has to address and prioritize. In the absence of an actual request, the capital budget included an amount for capital priorities. The amount was overstated to ensure we did not have to ask Councils to allocate more funds in the future.

Estimated (high) amount allocated to the capital budget	\$ 150,000
Request	\$ 36,957

The finance team erred clearly with large caution, as the amount requested is far less than the budget. We also recognize that the Mariners Center will be asking for considerable capital funds in the future, so while there will be a budget surplus in this item this year, the surplus will be short lived.

With any capital investment in 2024, costs are often higher than estimated. For the purposes of a decision from this council, I would recommend a 15% contingency on the request, so that we do not have to repeatedly ask the council to alter its decision. A 15% contingency moves our commitment to \$ 42,500 (rounded).

It is expected that this request shall be approved by our partners at the council level. MC board is comprised of members of all three councils as well. The decision to prioritize these projects also received advisory services from administrative staff and CAOs.

MGA considerations:

Recreation and capital improvements/repairs to recreation assets we own (directly or indirectly) are eligible expenditures under the MGA, as recreation is a budgeted municipal commitment. We are party to an intermunicipal agreement with the Town and District of Yarmouth to share in the commitment of capital and operations of the shared asset. The asset itself is owned by Argyle at 33%, shared with the Town and District. Intermunicipal contributions are eligible under the instructions of the intermunicipal agreement. As there is little doubt of the eligibility of this item, we have not attached the IMA for review on this decision item.

Financial considerations:

The request falls well within our 24-25 capital budget.