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**Date:** April 2, 2019  
**To:** Mayor and Council  
**Author:** Peggy Van Mierlo-West, CAO  
**RE:** Funding Announcement  
**Report No.:** CAO 05-2019

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## **AIM**

To provide Council with information regarding the funding announcement from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

## **BACKGROUND**

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Minister Steve Clark announced funding for providing a one-time payment in the 2018-19 fiscal year to support small and rural municipalities' efforts to become more efficient and reduce expenditure growth in the longer term. The municipal allocation was based on a formula, which takes into consideration the number of households in a municipality and whether it is urban or rural. The Town of Kingsville receive a one-time payment of \$620,201.

The funding is unconditional, however it is intended to help modernize service delivery and reduce future costs through investments in projects such as: service delivery reviews, development of shared services agreements, and capital investments.

## **DISCUSSION**

In discussions with various municipalities these funds are being proposed to improve the customer service experience through Information Technology improvements, research funding, and service delivery review.

Staff have met to discuss projects that have been noted through the strategic plan and previous discussions with Administration. There are numerous projects that have been requested such as improved computer software to provide online access and improved communication with our residents.

Based upon these discussions, staff are recommending to draft a RFP to provide improved internet connectivity between Town owned facilities. Currently Town Hall, Arena and the Fire Department are connected through aerial towers which do not provide optimum service capabilities regarding downloading of material, and storage file sharing. Also should the towers required to be replaced, all buildings will not be connected.

Providing underground high speed internet to the various Town owned buildings with also bring the Town one step closer to providing improved internet service to town owned businesses and residents.

It is anticipated that the RFP will be completed within the next month and a report will be brought back to Council for review.

## **LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

To become a leader in sustainable infrastructure renewal and development.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This project will not impact taxation. Once administration have reviewed the RFP a following report will come to Council for review.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Director of Finance  
Manager of Information Technology

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That council receive the report titled Funding announcement and;

That administration conduct a request for proposal for the provision of high speed internet between Town owned buildings.

*Peggy Van Mierlo-West*

Peggy Van Mierlo-West, C.E.T.  
Chief Administrative Officer