



Subject: *General Government Grants 2024/2025*
To: Corporate & Residential Services Committee
Date Prepared: January 5, 2024
Related Motions: C22(299)
Prepared by: Jo Swinemer, Community Development Coordinator
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

Summary

This report provides an overview of funding and the organizations currently included in the General Government Grants program. The Staff Grants Review Committee has reviewed and are bringing forward this report for direction on inclusion in the General Government Grant budget for 2024/2025.

Financial Impact Statement

Organization	2024/2025 Draft Operating Budget	Note
Remembering Canada’s Heroes	\$1,000	
Hants County Exhibition	\$500	
Dr. Snow Bursaries	\$3,000	
East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs	\$7,000	\$1,000 per organization, as outlined in report
COAT Association	\$2,000	
Contingency Available	\$4,000	Increase of \$2000 from previous years
TOTAL	\$17,500	

The “Grants to Organizations” line item in the 2024/2025 Draft Operating Budget includes a \$4,000 contingency to fund General Government Grants requests that are approved by Council. These requests will be brought to Council as they are received. This \$17,500 is an increase of \$2000 over the 2024/2025 budget for General Government Grants.

Recommendation

The General Government Grants identified in the draft budget and discussed in this report be approved as presented.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Corporate & Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that pending appropriate documentation is received, and the passing of 2024/2025 budget, Council approve the following General Government Grants for disbursement in 2024/2025:

- *Remembering Canada’s Heroes* \$1,000
- *Hants County Exhibition* \$ 500
- *Dr. Snow Bursaries* \$3,000
- *East Hants Foodbanks/Christmas Programs*
(Caring & Sharing, Hants North Food Bank, Shumiliacke, Indian Brook Food Bank, Uniacke Wishgivers, Kids Action Angel Tree Program, Hants County Christmas Angels \$7,000
- *COAT Association* \$2,000

Background

In April 2009, Council approved the General Government Grants Policy with a subsequent amendment being approved in May 2012. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidelines for the awarding of grants to non-profit organizations who apply to the Municipality for financial assistance.

The Eligibility Criteria from the General Government Grants Policy guides the review of applications and is as follows:

1. Program/Service Obligation ~ supports a service delivered by the Municipality.
2. Public Need/Benefit ~ service or program is broad-based and all residents will derive a benefit versus special interest group needs and benefit to specific residents.
3. Financial Need ~ application demonstrates financial need and identifies all other grants and fundraising activities. Copies of most recent Financial Statements and the current year's budget should accompany the request.
4. Quality of Life ~ service or program enhances the quality of life of residents.

Council's policy identifies applications received prior to March 31st in any given year will be given priority. Applications received after March 31st will be considered only if there are funds available.

As per the Municipal Grant Program Policy, the General Government Grant requires a Motion of Council to approve the budgeted General Government Grant recipients. Before the monies are released, each organization has to send their financial statements, operating budget and a letter of request to the CAO. The Foodbank/Christmas Programs receives their funding as a donation and we do not require the formal request or financial statements.

Discussion

A summary of each organization in the General Government Grant Program is provided below. Each of these organizations are continuing to meet the grant objectives as outlined above.

REMEMBERING CANADA'S HEROES

Remembering Canada's Heroes applies for funding annually to support their educational outreach program, where they visit Grade 8 and Grade 11 classrooms. In 2022, they were able to return to classrooms after COVID-19 limitations affected the previous 2 years but haven't been able to do as many presentations as hoped. The group will apply for these funds once they have used the funds provided in years prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, but didn't apply for their funding the last two years. The organization has begun to create some digital content and have plans to expand their offerings on YouTube which may be easier to for teachers to work into their curriculum.

A budgeted amount of \$1,000 for this organization is in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget under General Government.

HANTS COUNTY EXHIBITION

Hants County Exhibition has received a General Government Grant of \$300 for 10 years, with the exception of an expanded sponsorship in 2015 for their 250th anniversary. Since 2020, they have been receiving \$500 annually.

The budgeted amount of \$500 is included in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget under General Government.

DR. SNOW BURSARIES

These are for the funding of three (3) \$1,000 grants within the schools. These are given every year and the schools select each recipient. The Dr. Snow Bursaries are part of the Council's Municipal Grant Program Policy.

The budgeted amount of \$3,000 is included in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget under General Government.

EAST HANTS FOOD BANKS/CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

In October 2020, Council made a motion to provide all established food banks in East Hants with \$500 to help replenish stock after receiving a request from the Caring and Sharing Food Bank. In November 2021, Council made a motion to increase that amount to \$1,000 per foodbank [C21(346)]. In November 2021, Kids Action Program's Angel Tree Program was added to this list. In 2023, Hants County Christmas Angels was moved to this list, having been part of General Government program for several years. There are seven established recipients in East Hants:

1. Caring and Sharing Foodbank (Enfield)
2. Hants North Food Bank
3. Indian Brook Food Bank
4. Shumilacke Food Bank Society
5. Uniacke Wish Givers (Uniacke and District Jr. Fire Department Emergency Fund)
6. Kids Action Program (Angel Tree Program)
7. Hants County Christmas Angels

There is \$7,000 in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget under General Government to provide \$1,000 to each established food bank.

Due to limited volunteer capacity and nature of the donation, documentation is not required for the release of funds to these organizations.

COAT ASSOCIATION

In September 2022, Council received a request for funding support from the COAT Association. COAT stands for Community Offering Assistance Together, and this organization collects warm coats, snowsuits, hats, mittens and more to those in need across East Hants. This will be the third year for funding this organization.

The budgeted amount of \$2,000 is included in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget under General Government.

CONTINGENCY

A contingency of \$4,000 is included in the draft operating budget. This amount is used for any other potential grant applications that are received throughout the year. Should the applicant(s) meet the requirements for receiving a General Government Grant, separate report(s) will be brought to Council for approval.

In 2023/2024 contingency funding was used to fund Safe Grad facility rental of EHAC, two requests from 4H, a new request from the Rotary Club for Recycle my Cycle program and an ice rental for HERH/RCMP fundraising hockey tournament. As the Municipality continues to receive these smaller requests, contingency funding is important.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

From Council's 2021 Strategic Plan, the key strategy of Strong Community:

A strong community is where people feel a sense of pride, are safe, connected and active. This is achieved through long-range community planning and by supporting those who live, work and visit in East Hants. Our goal is to provide services, programs and facilities, through direct service delivery and collaboration with others, that allow people and businesses to thrive.

Organizations that receive General Government Grant Funding demonstrate a clear connection to "*Strong Community*" strategy, and our Vision as a "*vibrant, welcoming community that embraces rural and urban living - a place where everyone feels connected.*" By helping, supporting, educating and connecting East Hants residents, the General Government Grant program recipients help make East Hants a place people want to live.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

To support the organizations outlined above, it is a total of \$13,500. The Grants to Organizations line item in the 2024/2025 Draft Operating Budget includes a \$4,000 contingency to fund new General Government Grants requests that are approved by Council. These requests will be brought to Council if received.

This \$17,500 General Government Grant budget is an increase of \$2000 over the 2023/2024 budget.

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This report has brought forward a summary of the General Government Grant Program recipients and seeks Council’s approval of these organizations in the 2024/2025 draft operating budget.

Alternatives

Alternative funding amounts be identified for the General Government Grant recipients.