



Subject: *Burntcoat Lighthouse Capital Project #26-006 - Grant Funding*
To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee
Date Prepared: September 29, 2026
Related Motions: N/A
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Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Corporate Services

Summary

During the 2026/2027 Capital budget process, Council approved Burntcoat Lighthouse Capital Project #26-006 for \$250,000 with an additional \$400,000 for “Approval Sought for Further Study”. The Municipality has since been awarded \$250,000 in matching grant funds and needs Council approval to increase the approved budget from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Financial Impact Statement

Capital budget Project #26-006 will increase from \$250,000 to \$500,000 with additional funds coming from Federal grant funding.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the Municipality increase Burntcoat Lighthouse Capital Project # 26-006 from \$250,000 to \$500,000 with the additional \$250,000 coming from Federal grant funding.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends that Council increase Burntcoat Lighthouse Capital Project #26-006 from \$250,000 to \$500,000 with additional funding coming from Federal grant funding.

Background

In the 2026-27 budget, moving the Burntcoat Head Park lighthouse was proposed as a capital project due to erosion. Council approved the 2026-2027 budget with funds of \$250,000 to move the lighthouse and \$400,000 for further study based on availability of outside funding toward further park improvements which were referenced in the capital budget project description.

In early 2026, municipal staff contacted ACOA to discuss eligibility for relevant funding programs for the project. ACOA prompted East Hants to apply for the Innovative Communities Fund. An application was submitted and over the course of the summer, ACOA approved a further \$250,000 in matching funds for the project.

Discussion

Improvements to Burntcoat Head Park align with ACOA’s regional tourism development priorities including strengthening rural tourism infrastructure; improving visitor readiness; and supporting sustainable economic growth in East Hants and the Bay of Fundy region. With rising visitation to the site over the past several years, these capital improvements will ensure the park can keep up with increased traffic and continue to provide visitors with a positive experience.

If approved by Council, the work related to the ACOA funding will take place from fall of 2026 into spring of 2027.

The following project budget was approved in the ACOA funding application:

Project Component	Budget	Source
Lighthouse relocation & painting	\$250,000	East Hants
Washroom facilities	\$150,000	ACOA
Parking lot expansion	\$50,000	ACOA
Visitor Amenities (e.g. picnic shelters)	\$50,000	ACOA
<u>Total project budget</u>	<u>\$500,000</u>	

Staff also contacted the Provincial government to explore further funding options, however no appropriate funding streams were available.

The new amenities can be maintained with current staffing levels.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The East Hants Strategic Plan lists the Burntcoat Lighthouse relocation within its Sustainable Infrastructure key strategy. The Strategic Plan's Strong Community key strategy also aims to support tourism to enrich the quality of life for residents and attract visitors.

This project is also anticipated to support the upcoming revised East Hants Tourism Strategy, and supports the existing strategy by supporting the Key Strategy of Infrastructure Development: "Goal: ensure appropriate infrastructure and facilities are in place at municipally-owned tourism assets to meet the needs of visitors."

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

During the 2026/2027 Capital budget process Council approved Burntcoat Lighthouse Capital Project #26-006 for \$250,000 with an additional \$400,000 for "Approval Sought for Further Study".

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

Draft - Updated Capital Project Template - Burntcoat Lighthouse #26-006