

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Monday, December 12, 2022 **WARD(S):** ALL

TITLE: ANNUAL GRANT REPORT 2022

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

Staff are providing Committee with a detailed summary of grant applications submitted by the City in 2022 and a comprehensive summary of the revenue generated by successfully awarded grants.

Report Highlights

- In 2018, the City's grant application process was centralized in Economic Development, under the City Manager's portfolio. Following the council-approved reorganization in 2021, the function continues within Economic Development in the Office of Communications and Economic Development. This has allowed staff to leverage a broader public affairs and economic development team to drive greater outcomes.
- Immediately following the centralization of the grant application process in 2018, the volume of grant applications significantly increased. Subsequently, the volume of successfully awarded grants has increased.
- Total grant submissions more than doubled from 15 applications in 2017 (prior to the function being moved into Economic Development) to 36 applications in 2022.
- In 2022, 20 grants were successfully awarded, representing a combined value of \$8,589,880. There are currently 12 grants pending decision, valued at \$16,569,270.
- Grants secure non-taxation revenue to deliver city infrastructure, programs, and services. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, grant activity increased with support from all levels of government.

Recommendations

1. THAT Council receives this report for information.

Background

Grant support is provided across the corporation by the Strategic Economic Initiatives Unit in Economic Development.

To establish economic magnets in the City of Vaughan that will advance opportunities and attract new investments, the Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI) business unit within the Office of Communications and Economic Development (OCED) focuses on Smart Cities, Public Art, Strategic Projects like the Vaughan Healthcare Centre Precinct, and Revenue-generation through advertising, sponsorship and grants.

In 2018, grant submission activity throughout the City of Vaughan was consolidated in the Economic Development department (now within OCED) to develop a comprehensive and consistent process to assist departments in identifying potential grants, submitting applications and monitoring/administering the process. Before this, departments prepared submissions in isolation. This resulted in inconsistent submissions, fewer successful applications and missed opportunities. The new process

created a policy to guide and refresh the grant process by centralizing submission development and establishing a point of contact to assist staff.

Grants secure non-taxation revenue to deliver critical city infrastructure, programs and services.

To put the contribution grants can make to the City's finances in perspective, \$2M in alternative revenue represents approximately 1% of the property tax base. Now more than ever, it is critical for the City to remain focused on diversifying its revenue streams.

Previous Reports/Authority

[Grant Funding Process Update, 2018](#)

Analysis and Options

Since 2017, the City of Vaughan has increased the number of annual grant application submissions.

According to the council-approved Grant Funding Policy, staff are continually encouraged to find ways to generate non-taxation revenue to support Council approved initiatives. The policy process has enabled an increase in the number of applications submitted year-over-year for grants from federal and provincial governments and private funding bodies. As a result, the number of successful applications has significantly increased. Grants from governments and various funding bodies provide non-taxation revenue for city infrastructure, programs and services.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Applications	15	39	33	17*	33	36

Figure 1: Grants applied for - City Wide

*The global COVID-19 pandemic forced governments to shift from offering grants to providing emergency business and healthcare aid. As a result, the City submitted fewer grant applications.

Since 2017, the City of Vaughan has seen a consistent increase in the number of awarded grant applications.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Awarded Grants	11	18	18	16*	20	20

Figure 2: Grants awarded – City Wide

*Although the number of awarded grants was lower than average in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the success rate increased to 94%, with 16 awarded projects out of 17 applications.

Capital investment remains steady, with three major programs currently offsetting \$6,576,253 from the property tax base.

1. Government of Canada

The City of Vaughan was awarded \$2,981,250 for the following projects:

- a) Pierre Berton Heritage Centre Parking Lot Revitalization - \$375,000
- b) Playground resurfacing and Sensory Gardens - \$375,000
- c) Woodbridge Library Entrance Renovation - \$731,250
- d) Keele Street Multi-Use Pathway - \$750,000
- e) Woodbridge Avenue Streetscape - \$750,000

2. Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund (SPIF)

In response to outstanding funds in the Invest in Community Infrastructure Program (ICIP), the 2021 Ontario Budget included approximately \$200 million to provide infrastructure funding to more significant, strategic projects and sports facilities through the newly established Strategic Priorities Infrastructure Fund.

The City of Vaughan was awarded \$3,584,003 for the following project:

- a) Doctors Mclean Park Redevelopment and Riverwalk Trail

The project proposed is for the redevelopment and enhancement of Doctors Mclean District Park, located in Woodbridge's growth centre, that includes new park features and an expansion and rehabilitation of the current trail system (Riverwalk) to the north. The scope consists of designing and revitalizing existing parkland and open space facilities, including shade shelters and picnic areas; walkways, trails and pedestrian bridge crossings; site furnishings and interpretive signage; and habitat enhancements, including pollinator gardens.

3. The Atmospheric Fund (TAF)

The Atmospheric Fund is a not-for-profit organization that invests in low-carbon solutions that benefit the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) and help scale them up for broad implementation through financing, grants, and programs. The EV Station Fund supports the installation of charging stations across the GTHA through technical and financial support, including up to a 50% contribution towards the installation costs.

The City of Vaughan was awarded \$11,000 for the following project:

a) Pierre Berton Heritage Centre EV charging infrastructure

Funding is for installing one EV charging station at the Pierre Berton Heritage Centre in Kleinburg. The EV charging station has connections that can charge two vehicles simultaneously. The program also provides an additional rebate for advisory support to assist with continued program delivery.

Operational grant funding has increased, with 17 grants awarded for various programs and initiatives, significantly offsetting the property tax base by \$2,013,627.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Amount Awarded	Description
2022 Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Community Projects	Canadian Heritage	\$5,000	In celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, local spoken word artists will be commissioned to reflect on "What does the Jubilee mean...?" four times a year, Canada Day, National Indigenous Peoples Day, Order of Vaughan and Inauguration.
Active Transportation Fund (ATF) - Planning Stream	Infrastructure Canada	\$50,000	Boyd Conservation Area trail feasibility plan supporting the expansion and enhancement of active transportation infrastructure and a modal shift away from cars and toward active transportation.

Canada Summer Jobs	Ministry of Employment and Social Development	\$224,673	14 departments applied for summer employee wage subsidies, and 153 positions were awarded.
Community Investment - Safety	TransCanada	\$10,000	Vaughan Fire and Rescue awarded funding for training support.
Edible Trees	Tree Canada	\$3,500	The Environmental Sustainability Department planted 24 trees in York Hill District Park in partnership with the TRCA.
Francophone Community Grant	Ontario Ministry of Francophone Affairs	\$6,912	Vaughan Public Libraries applied for Franco-Ontarian author/illustrator visits
International Dyslexia Association	International Dyslexia Association	\$500	Vaughan Public Libraries mini-grant for decodable readers program
Mainstreet Community Activator Program	Canadian Urban Institute/FedDev Ontario	\$115,000	Economic Development awarded funding for Thornhill and VMC neighbourhood main streets with a focus on supporting the recovery from the pandemic by revitalizing and facilitating the return of locally owned independent businesses. KBIA awarded (Vaughan-supported) \$5710 for their music programming during the pandemic.
Municipal Asset Management Program (MAMP)	Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)	\$50,000	Funding was awarded to the City's IPCAM department to help strengthen asset management practices by developing Asset Management Plans for Non-Core Assets.

Ontario Sport Hosting Fund	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Ontario	\$19,000	Funding awarded to host the Canada Soccer Toyota National Championship Challenge/Jubilee tournament, Oct. 5-10, 2022.
Public Library Operating Grant	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	\$143,234	VPL annual operating grant
Seniors Community Grant Program	Grants Ontario	\$25,000	Recreation Services applied for safety lunch and learns, walking and hiking clubs and technology classes for seniors to encourage the safe community engagement of seniors through volunteerism, learning, financial awareness, social inclusion, elder abuse prevention, mental well-being and physical activity.
Seniors Community Grant Program	Grants Ontario	\$4,598	VPL applied for the Memory Lab program expansion which would allow VPL to upgrade the existing Memory Lab at Woodbridge Library and expand the service to additional locations. Memory Labs provide opportunities for older adults to learn new technologies by digitizing their old photos, slides, videos, scrapbooks and more.
Small Business Enterprise Centre Funding	Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade	\$323,525	Staff have been notified of the Province's commitment to maintaining funding levels as consistent with the currently existing agreement term of April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2022. This commitment will continue through a two-year plus one-year extension Transfer Payment

			Agreement (TPA) (April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024, March 31, 2025, if the one-year extension is applied) at the current budgeted allocation of \$323,525 per year.
Streamline Development Approval Fund	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing	\$1,000,000	Through this fund, one million dollars was allocated to the City of Vaughan based on the need to streamline the development approval process.
TD Greenspace	TD Bank	\$25,000	Funding to plant trees and shrubs to create a pollinator garden at York Hill District Park in the proposed environmental learning zone will also cover the design and construction of a bio-retention facility in the same location.
Young Canada Works	Canadian Library & Archives	\$7,685	Summer Children's Services Assistants to support Summer Reading initiatives.

Figure 3: Operational grants awarded - City Wide

Financial Impact

A total of \$8,589,880 in grant funding was awarded in 2022. There are another 12 applications pending response, valued at \$16,569,270.

Conclusion

Grants secure non-taxation revenue to deliver city infrastructure, programs, and services. The volume of grant applications submitted by the city of Vaughan has significantly increased since 2017. Subsequently, the number of successful grants has also increased. This result is directly correlated to the centralization of the grant application process in 2018.

In 2022, the City was successfully awarded 20 grants, representing a combined value of \$8,589,880. There are currently 12 grants pending, valued at \$16,569,270.

Diversifying revenue sources is critical as there is increased uncertainty attributable to rising inflation, a looming recession and the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Garnering support from funding partners – corporations, government

agencies, or other private institutions – is a crucial piece of the revenue puzzle.

For more information, contact Cristina Prinzo, Program Manager Municipal Partnerships and Corporate Initiatives, ext. 8187.

Attachment

None.

Prepared by

Cristina Prinzo, Program Manager, Municipal Partnerships and Corporate Initiatives, ext. 8187.

Approved by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Spensieri', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Nick Spensieri, City Manager