

Committee of the Whole (2) Report

DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2023

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: ANNUAL GRANT REPORT 2023

FROM:

Nick Spensieri, City Manager

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide Council with a detailed summary of all grant activity throughout the year including applications submitted, opportunities awarded, and the value of the revenue generated for City infrastructure, programs and services.

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 35 applications in 2023.
- In 2023, 20 grants were successfully awarded, representing a combined value of \$72,434,641 of non-taxation revenue to deliver city infrastructure, programs, and services.

Recommendations

1. That Council receives this report for information.

Background

The Strategic Economic Initiatives Unit in Economic Development provides grant support across the corporation.

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

[Annual Grant Report, 2022](#)

Analysis and Options

The City of Vaughan continues to increase the amount of grant opportunities identified and applications submitted each year.

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 has accelerated 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 since 2017.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# of Applications	15	39	33	17*	33	36	35

Figure 1: Grants applied for - City Wide

**The global COVID-19 pandemic forced governments to shift priorities therefore 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 since 2017.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
# of Awarded Grants	11	18	18	16	20	20	20
Success Rating %	73%	46%	54%	94%*	61%	56%	58%

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.*

The City’s annual success rate average is 63% with the following value of awarded capital and operating grants each fiscal year:

Year	Value of Awarded Grants
2017	\$300,525
2018	\$13,892,752
2019	\$4,799,944
2020	\$1,140,604
2021	\$19,927,655
2022	\$8,589,880
2023	\$72,883,924

Figure 3: Value of Grants awarded – City Wide

Capital Funding

Capital investment increased exponentially this year, with \$69,557,134 of non-taxation revenue focusing on housing, transportation and climate change.

1. Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) - \$59,153,675; Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC)

As part of the Housing Accelerator Fund, the Government of Canada and the City of Vaughan have agreed to expedite the creation of more than 1,700 new housing units and incentivize thousands of additional homes over the next three years. This is the most significant housing investment in Vaughan's history and marks only the second agreement by an Ontario municipality under the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund.

2. Active Transportation Fund (ATF) - \$9,600,000.00; Infrastructure Canada

The City of Vaughan has been awarded \$9,600,000 for the Jane Street “Uptown Link” Cycle Track and Sidewalk Project, which was recognized as a prominent initiative in the 2020 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The project will expand the city’s growing cycling and pedestrian networks through the implementation of 8 km of cycle tracks on both sides of Jane Street (17 linear km), 4 km of missing sidewalks and 32 light standards. The project includes accessibility improvements, more than 20 active transportation-focused intersection and driveway treatments, as well as 41 transit stop modifications to support people of all ages and abilities wanting to walk, bike or take transit along the corridor between Highway 7 and Teston Road in Vaughan, Ontario.

3. Pedestrian and Cycling Program - \$500,000.00; York Region

The City of Vaughan has been awarded \$250,000 to add 2 km of cycle tracks along both sides of New Westminster Drive between Bathurst Street and Clark Avenue as well as accessibility and pedestrian improvements including a new mid-block crossing at Katerina Avenue. The project will build on the successes of the recently completed Clark Avenue project, partly funded by the Region, and provide separate cycling facilities for people of all ages and abilities to comfortably ride their bikes. In addition to retrofitting the corridor to include cycle tracks, the project will also include but is not limited to, accessibility improvements, associated sidewalk realignment and improvements, street lighting improvements, signage, pavement markings, pedestrian and cycling-focused intersection enhancements and driveway treatments, new mid-block crossing as well as counters in accordance with all applicable design guidelines.

In addition, the City has also been awarded another \$250,000 to complete the detailed design to add 850m of active transportation improvements to each side of Major Mackenzie Drive between Jane Street and McNaughton Road. The Major Mackenzie Drive Active Transportation Improvements Project includes a combination of sidewalk and cycle track and multi-use pathway in constrained locations, accessibility improvements as well as all associated sidewalk realignments, signage, pavement markings, along with pedestrian and cycling focused intersection enhancements and driveway treatments, in accordance with all applicable design guidelines.

4. Zero Emissions Vehicle Program (ZEVIP) - \$230,000.00; Natural Resources Canada

The ZEVIP funding will be put towards the installation of EV charging infrastructure across the City in the 'public places' category, including community centres, libraries, and parks.

The funding will support the installation of new dual-head Level 2 EV chargers at :

- Maple Community Centre and Library (2 stations/4 connections and one rough-in)
- Vellore Village Community Centre and Library (2 stations/4 connections and one rough-in)
- Al Palladini Community Centre (1 station/2 connections and one rough-in)
- Carrville Community Centre (new build) (6 stations/12 connections and 8 rough-ins)
- North Maple Regional Park (2 stations/4 connections and one rough-in)
- Joint Operations Centre (4 stations/8 connections and one rough-in)
- Fire Hall 7-1 (1 station/2 connections and one rough-in)
- Fire Hall 7-2 (1 station/2 connections and one rough-in)
- Fire Hall 7-12 (new build) (4 stations/8 connections and one rough-in)

That is a total of 23 EV Charging Stations and 46 Connections with each wand to be connected to its own dedicated circuit. We are also planning ahead and installing 16 rough-ins for future development as the need arises.

5. Next-Generation 911 - \$73,459.81; Province of Ontario

On April 14, 2022, the Ontario Government announced the investment of \$208 million over three years to enhance the province's 9-1-1 emergency response system and support PSAPs and municipalities across Ontario with their transition to NG9-1-1.

In support of Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service, the year one NG9-1-1 Transition Support Funding was used for project management, procurement, legal and IT services. The year two NG9-1-1 application is pending Ministry approval for an additional \$1,332,621.80.

There are currently 2 pending funding applications totalling more than \$63 million from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) and the second round of NG911.

Operational Funding

In 2023 there were 15 grants awarded for various programs and initiatives, significantly offsetting the property tax base by \$3,326,789,54.

Grant Name	Funding Agency	Amount Awarded	Description
2023-24 Seniors Community Grant Program, COV	Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility	\$5,000	In support of Older Adult Entrepreneurship, the project led by Recreation Services will assist in providing FREE first aid and aquafit instruction courses for those 55+ who are looking for employment. The program may also include Economic Development if they are interested in starting a business.
2023-24 Seniors Community Grant Program, VPL	Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility	\$4,500	Vaughan Public Libraries awarded funding for the expansion of the Memory Lab.
2023 Canada Summer Jobs, COV	Ministry of Employment and Social Development	\$124,642	16 departments applied for 288 jobs city-wide divided into Vaughan's three federal constituencies: Thornhill - \$10,850 (5) Woodbridge - \$30,247 (14) King-Vaughan - \$83,545 (39)

2023 Canada Summer Jobs, VPL	Ministry of Employment and Social Development	\$19,461	Vaughan Public Libraries applied for Summer Children's Services and Creation Assistants.
CanExport Fund 2023	Ministry of the Solicitor General	\$6,927.54	Economic Development received funding to conduct lead generation at the 2023 Auto-Tech Detroit conference in support of Vaughan's next-gen auto sector.
Celebrate Canada	Ministry of Canadian Heritage	\$16,000	The City of Vaughan Event's team received funding in support of the 2023 Canada Day celebration.
Invasive Species Action Fund	Invasive Species Centre (non-profit)	\$10,000	In support of preventing, controlling and eradicating the threats posed by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Species in the City of Vaughan through GIS mapping.
New Horizons for Seniors, COV	Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility	\$21,719	Recreation Services purchased SmartBoard technology for their community centre Older Adult Aquafitness and Fitness programming virtual instruction.
New Horizons for Seniors, VPL	Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility	\$25,000	Vaughan Public Libraries received funding for the Kitchen Traditions programming for Older Adults.
Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN)	Ontario Centre of Innovation	\$2,500,000 (50% split with the City of Markham)	In partnership with the City of Markham, the OVIN program will provide Ontario-based companies that have smart mobility technologies and solutions an opportunity to test, validate and showcase to potential customers and partners, in a controlled real-world environment and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and approvals.

Museum Assistance Program (MAP)	Ministry of Canadian Heritage	\$4,428	In support of the Vaughan Public Libraries Taste of Science Exhibit.
Public Libraries Operating Grant (PLOG)	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport	\$143,234	VPL annual operating grant from the Province of Ontario.
Reconnect Ontario 2023	Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Ontario	\$98,975	Funding awarded for Vaughan Celebrates 2023 events and programming.
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.
Young Canada Works 2023	Canadian Library & Archives	\$23,378	Summer Children's Services and Creation Assistants.

Figure 3: Operational grants awarded - City Wide

Financial Impact

A total of \$72,434,641 in grant funding was awarded in 2023 to offset City capital and operating budgets. There are another 10 applications pending response, valued at \$64,056,489 that may be received in 2024 after being evaluated (see Attachment 1).

Operational Impact

Economic Development collaborates with various departments throughout the grant application process as per the Grant Funding Policy and Procedures. As subject matter experts, each department works with Economic Development staff by providing their knowledge and expertise to put the application together. Once submitted and if successful, it is the project manager's responsibility to execute the parameters of each grant agreement and report back to the funders as required. Successful grant applications are regularly communicated to Council and an annual report is provided to share the full scope of the portfolio.

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 2023, the City was successfully awarded 20 grants, representing a combined value of \$72,434,641. There are currently 10 grants pending, valued at \$64,056,489. Diversifying revenue sources is critical and support from funding partners is a crucial piece of the City's revenue puzzle.

For more information, contact Cristina Prinzo, Program Manager Municipal Partnerships and Corporate Initiatives Cristina.prinzo@vaughan.ca

Attachments

1. 2023 Grant Summary

Prepared by

Cristina Prinzo, Program Manager, Municipal Partnerships and Corporate Initiatives
Cristina.prinzo@vaughan.ca

Approved by



Nick Spensieri, City Manager