

Committee of the Whole (1) Report

DATE: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

WARD(S): ALL

TITLE: ANNUAL GRANT REPORT 2024

FROM:

Michael Genova, Deputy City Manager, Strategic Initiatives

ACTION: FOR INFORMATION

Purpose

To provide Council with a detailed summary of all grant activity undertaken by staff from across the corporation throughout the year, including applications submitted, opportunities awarded, and the value of the revenue generated from federal, provincial and private funding bodies.

Report Highlights

- The City of Vaughan continues to maintain the number of grant opportunities identified and applications submitted each year at a significant level.
- The Strategic Economic Initiatives unit works with subject matter experts and project managers from across the corporation to identify and secure grant funding.
- In 2024, thirty grants were submitted, seven were awarded, sixteen are pending and seven were declined.
- The total value of all seven awarded grants is \$36,414,602.00 of non-taxation revenue to deliver city infrastructure, programs and services.

Recommendation

1. That Council receives this report for information.

Background

The Strategic Economic Initiatives business unit in the Economic Development Department is the centralized hub for the facilitation and coordination of grant activity across the corporation.

To streamline the grant process, a Grant Funding Policy was established in 2018 to advance opportunities and attract new investments in the municipality. This new model allows for a comprehensive and consistent process to assist departments in identifying potential grant opportunities, submitting applications and contract administration throughout the terms of the agreement.

The Strategic Economic Initiatives unit works with subject matter experts and project managers from across the corporation to secure grant funding.

Staff in Strategic Economic Initiatives identify available grants. By circulating them to portfolios across the city, projects and programs that qualify for the grant are identified. Staff in Economic Development work with program and project managers to apply for the grant. Management of the cashflow and grant requirements are the responsibility of the program or project manager but are supported by staff in Economic Development.

Grant funding provides the City with an alternative revenue stream to deliver on the critical capital and operating needs of the municipality without relying on traditional models of taxation, Development Charges and service fees.

Municipalities across the country are exploring alternative ways of financing projects and programs. With the help of grant funding, Vaughan has remained focused on diversifying its revenue streams. For example, \$2 million in grant funding represents approximately 1% on the property tax rate. The ongoing success of the grant program allows for the municipality to continue to deliver service excellence and progress the Term of Council Strategic Priorities.

Previous Reports/Authority

[ANNUAL GRANT REPORT, 2023](#)

Analysis and Options

The city's Term of Council Strategic Priority areas reflect the focus of both the federal and provincial governments. They include City Building, Environmental Sustainability, Active, Engaged and Inclusive Communities, and Community Safety and Wellbeing.

City Building – to foster a high quality of life in Vaughan through safe and healthy communities.

1. Housing Enabling Water Systems Fund (HEWSF) - \$35,000,000; Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure

This funding will provide core stormwater and wastewater infrastructure to support over 20,000 new housing units to be developed in the VMC by 2031 which makes up nearly 50% of the City-wide housing target of 42,000 units. Identified as a growth leader, the City of Vaughan requires essential stormwater/wastewater reconstruction in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre to support the high-density plans in the area.

The project will include reconstructing core stormwater assets surrounding Edgeley Pond to prevent flooding, adding additional linear assets via culverts that provide pedestrian crossings and connect to the existing Highway 7 culvert, and making additional wastewater improvements to service all future residents of the VMC.

With solid support from the Federal government in 2023 with a historical \$59M grant through the Housing Accelerator Fund, the addition of the Provincial HEWSF fund is a critical program to assist the City in delivering on its housing pledge.

Environmental Sustainability - Protect the environment and foster a sustainable future through our social and economic initiatives.

2. Treemendous Communities - \$10,000; Tree Canada

Funds were awarded to plant over 200 trees in North Maple Regional Park in partnership with residents to support the city's tree canopy growth targets.

3. TD Friends of the Environment Grant- \$4,690; TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (FEF)

The TD FEF awarded the city tree planting funding for Chancellor Park in Ward 3. Residents, student groups, and foundation members planted trees to support the city's tree canopy growth targets.

4. Invasive Species Fund - \$2,000; Invasive Species Centre of Canada

This second phase of funding from the Invasive Species Centre of Canada supports the continued development of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid mapping project with the TRCA in Vaughan's woodlots.

Active, Engaged and Inclusive Communities – ensure Vaughan is a vibrant, diverse, inclusive and equity-based community for all.

5. Seniors Community Grant - \$12,524; Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility

The program will support two programs for Seniors in our community. First, the *Seniors Coffee Connection* will occur monthly in a central community centre. Programming will include resources and information for seniors and invite speakers and guests to share information on key topics for older adults in the community. Second, the *First Aid Training Program* will increase the safety and first aid knowledge of seniors in the community through free basic first aid certification. The program would have travelling instructors with opportunities for classes to take place within retirement communities, tapping into an often forgotten demographic.

6. Canada Summer Jobs - \$134,825; Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)

In 2024, the Canada Summer Jobs program provided the City of Vaughan with 59 wage subsidies for youth ages 15-30 in various employment, from transportation coordinator to camp counsellor. The funding not only supports youth in transitioning into the workforce but also supports talent development in the local economy.

Community Safety and Wellbeing – foster a high quality of life in Vaughan through safe and healthy communities.

7. Next Generation 9-1-1 - \$1,250,563; Solicitor General, Community Safety

Next-generation 9-1-1 is a mandatory replacement for the current Enhanced 9-1-1 infrastructure and systems across Canada. Vaughan's current 9-1-1 system has reached the end of life. It cannot keep up with evolving technologies and current Canadian expectations of a modern 9-1-1 system. NG9-1-1 will impact all aspects of emergency communications and service delivery. The existing 9-1-1 system was mandated to be decommissioned on June 30, 2023, and current Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) must transition to continue taking 9-1-1 calls from the public. This multi-year migration required significant new funding and the execution of a new NG9-1-1 Service Agreement.

Financial Impact

The City of Vaughan continues to maintain the number of grant opportunities identified and applications submitted each year at a significant level.

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, provincial, and private funding bodies.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# of Applications	15	39	33	17*	33	36	35	30

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.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# of Awarded Grants	11	18	18	16	20	20	20	7

Figure 2: Grants awarded – City Wide

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
2024	\$36,414,602

Figure 3: Value of Grants awarded – City-Wide

Operational Impact

The grant program relies on various departments to achieve ultimate success. Economic Development identifies the grants (however, other departments sometimes bring them forward), and then the applications are compiled collaboratively with the subject matter experts. Ultimately, each grant is unique and requires input from various areas depending on the program's requirements.

Economic Development spearheads the application process, submission, and contract finalization. The files are then transferred to the respective project managers for execution and contract administration throughout the contract's term.

Broader Regional Impacts/Considerations

N/A

Conclusion

Grants secure non-taxation revenue to deliver city infrastructure, programs, and services. In 2024, the city was successfully awarded eight grants, representing a combined value of \$36,414,602. 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.

Attachment

1. 2024 Grant Summary.

Prepared by

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