



COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: June 10, 2019

SUBMITTED BY: H. Wilson, Economic Development Manager

PREPARED BY: C. Graham, Economic Development Officer

REPORT TITLE: Downtown Business Association Capital Reserves

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Leduc has a capital reserve that is used to help offset the costs for capital projects for the Downtown Business Association (Leduc DBA). The Leduc DBA seeks access to these funds for the purpose of installing permanent musical fixtures along 50th Avenue between 47th Street and 50th Street. As this is not in the existing budget, approval by Council is required to adjust the 2019 capital budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve an expenditure of up to \$50,000, for the purpose of capital improvements to the Downtown Business Association area to be funded through the DBA capital reserve.

RATIONALE

Percussion based musical instruments installed along the downtown corridor will provide year-round entertainment opportunities and a unique downtown experience.

STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

2012 Downtown Master Plan (DMP) – while not a specific tactic outlined in the DMP, this does support the initiative of a revitalized downtown core in the heart of Leduc.

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION:

Community Development – The City of Leduc Community Development Department does not install instruments in community playgrounds, but there are no Bylaws or Policies restricting this type of installation.

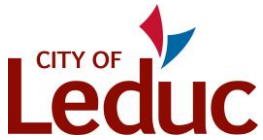
Public Services – Following review of the instruments, no foreseeable major issues were flagged for street cleaning, sidewalks or future maintenance.

Planning – Due to the fact that these instruments are being placed in the road right of way, no permits are required from City of Leduc Planning.

Economic Development – The Leduc Downtown Business Association strives to provide a unique business environment and experience for residents and guests to the City of Leduc.

RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL:

This expenditure is not part of the existing 2019 budget, so approval is required by Council. As the expense will be funded through the DBA capital reserve there will be no fiscal impact to the 2019 capital budget, however this does decrease the balance of this reserve (currently \$107K).



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IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS:

NA – This installation will be coordinated by the Leduc Downtown Business Association

ALTERNATIVES:

That Council does not approve the capital project for the purpose of capital improvements to the Downtown Business Association area to be funded through the DBA capital reserve

ATTACHMENTS

Leduc Downtown Business Association Request Letter



May 12, 2019

His Worship Mayor Bob Young and Council
1 Alexandra Park
Leduc, AB, T9E 4C4

Dear Mayor Young and Council,

Over the last few years the Leduc Downtown Business Association has been researching many different ways that we could use capital expenditures to complement the streetscape improvements downtown Leduc. Our goals with such an expenditure are to have it fit the culture of Leduc's Downtown, while also driving sufficient interest that it may bring new people and businesses downtown. Ideally such an expenditure would also inspire other organizations, businesses or not-for-profits to follow suit with similar capital projects. We believe we have found such a capital expenditure.

The Leduc Downtown Business Association would like to purchase nine (9) "Percussive Play" instruments from "Play Works". These instruments are surface mounted and will be placed in four separate locations on Main Street- locations to be finalized in consultation with City Staff. The instruments are all tuned to one another and as such nearly impossible to play poorly.

These instruments have been placed in parks, beaches, hospitals, pre-schools, and gardens throughout the world. We would be the first downtown in North America to have multiple installations of these instruments, offering an opportunity for our downtown to stand out!

The cost will be \$51, 601.52 including installation and GST, and can be delivered in 6-10 weeks. We would require access to the Capital Funding set aside for the Leduc Downtown Business Association, formerly the Leduc Downtown Progress Association. With your approval, we can purchase these instruments and create a truly unique feature in our downtown.

See the attached image of the instruments and a copy of the quote provided by Play Works. We would enjoy the opportunity to present this capital expenditure to the Committee of the Whole at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Dr. Jack Gordon, Chair

Street Quartet Ensemble



Cherub

