



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: Housing Needs Report – Grant Application

File #: 6410.00

Doc #:

From: Roy M. Beddow, MCIP, RPP
Deputy Director of Development Services

Date: September 30, 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council:

1. Endorse the attached Housing Needs Report grant application to the Union of B.C. Municipalities;
2. Direct staff to provide grant management for the Housing Needs Report project.

PURPOSE:

To consider a grant application for a Housing Needs Report.

POLICY:

The City adopted an Affordable Housing Strategy in 2009 and a policy to support and encourage affordable housing in accordance with the Strategy was included in the Official Community Plan (OCP) in 2010.

In 2019 the Province of British Columbia enacted new provisions in the *Local Government Act* requiring local governments to prepare “Housing Needs Reports” identifying the number and type of housing units needed to meet current and anticipated needs for at least the next five years. In accordance with the *Act*, the City is required to receive its first Housing Needs Report by April 16, 2022.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The City has engaged Modus to prepare a Housing Needs Report for the City of Langley in support of the work towards a new OCP and in anticipation of meeting the legislative requirements. Modus has provided a work plan and a budget proposal totalling \$29,983.00 for completion of the project.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs currently funds a grant program administered by the Union of B.C. Municipalities (UBCM) to support the preparation of housing needs reports. Under the UBCM program, grants of up to \$30,000 are available for communities with populations of 15,000 – 49,999. In order to take advantage of available funding, Modus has prepared a UBCM grant application on behalf of the City. The grant application requires Council support in the form of a resolution according to the recommendations of this report.

Once completed, the Housing Needs Report will provide a key foundation to develop new OCP policies and Zoning Bylaw regulations that support the development of housing that meets the City's needs, and help facilitate affordable housing initiatives.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan includes an allocation of \$40,000 to update the City's Affordable Housing Strategy in 2020. The Housing Needs Report in conjunction with the new OCP will provide much of the same content as was originally envisioned for the Affordable Housing Strategy update.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Do not support UBCM grant application for a Housing Needs Report.

Respectfully Submitted,



Roy M. Beddow, MCIP, RPP
Deputy Director of Development Services

Concurrence:



Carl Johannsen, MCIP, RPP
Director of Development Services

Attachment(s):

1. Grant Application – Housing Needs Reports Program (UBCM);
2. Housing Needs Report Project Budget (Modus).

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I support the recommendations.



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer