



Community Issues Committee Report

February 26, 2026

People and Partner Services-2026-0004

Parade Resourcing

Submitted By: Deputy Mayor Schmidt-Rempel, Vice-Chair – Community Issues Committee

Recommendation of Community Issues Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Issues Committee recommends that City Council amend the 2023-2026 Operating Budget by reallocating the annual grant amount of \$6,500 for Lethbridge & District Exhibition – Parade Float to the City Council Operating Budget for the 2026 and 2027 years and allocate \$6,500 from the 2023-2025 City Council carryforward, for a total of \$13,000, to fund a City of Lethbridge parade float; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Issues Committee recommends that City Council refer any ongoing parade resource funding to the 2028-2031 Operating Budget deliberations.

Vote:

In Favour: 8-0 (Unanimous)

Absent: Mayor Hyggen

Public Speakers at the Meeting: None

Public Submissions: None

Name Gerald Gauthier, Government Relations Manager

Department People and Partner Services

Summary

Given changes to the operations and governance of the Lethbridge and District Exhibition (LDE) in recent years and the opportunities for City Council to represent Lethbridge in parades in regional communities, administration is recommending that Council approve the reallocation of the annual grant of \$6,500 to LDE for Parade Floats for the years 2025 and 2026 (totaling \$13,000) to fund a City of Lethbridge parade float; and further that this annual grant in 2027 and future years be reallocated to administration to fund operational costs of participating in parades in Lethbridge as well as regional communities.

Recommendation(s)

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Issues Committee recommends that City Council:

- Amend the 2023-2026 Operating Budget by reallocating the annual grant amount of \$6,500 for Lethbridge & District Exhibition – Parade Float to the Mayor & City Council Operating Budget for 2026 year and allocate \$6,500 from the 2023-2025 Mayor & City Council carryforward, for a total of \$13,000, to fund a City of Lethbridge parade float; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Issues Committee recommends that City Council:

- Remove the annual grant of \$6,500 for the 'Lethbridge & District Exhibition – Parade Float' as an ongoing line item in future operating budgets; and
- Allocate funds in the amount of \$6,500 to Mayor & City Council Operating Budget in the 2027 operating budget and as an ongoing line item in future budget years to fund the operational costs of participating in parades located in Lethbridge and regional communities and to fund any future parade float maintenance

Financial

This recommendation would have no effect on the current or future base operating budgets, as it proposes to reallocate existing approved funding.

City Council members took part in three parades in 2025 (Whoop-Up Days Parade, Coaldale Summer Fest Parade, and Coalhurst Parade) with total parade expenditures of approximately \$4,100. In 2024, Council members entered two parades (Whoop-Up Days and Coaldale) with total expenditures slightly less. Surpluses from previous years' parade allocations have been used to fund costs for other parade-related events such as the Mayor's Community Barbecue during Whoop-Up Days.

Background and Prior Decisions

The base operating budget includes an annual grant of \$6,500 to the Lethbridge and District Exhibition (LDE) for the provision of a parade float for the City of Lethbridge in the annual Whoop-Up Days Parade. Historically, the LDE formally requested this grant in writing each year. The LDE has ceased requesting this grant.

Engagement

N/A

Recommendation and Option(s) Analysis

- **Option 1 (Recommended)** - Reallocate the annual \$6,500 grant for parade floats, currently allocated to the Lethbridge & District Exhibition, for the years 2025 and 2026 (totaling \$13,000) to administration to fund a City of Lethbridge parade float; and reallocate this grant amount to administration in 2027 and future budget years to fund operational costs of participating in parades in Lethbridge and regional communities as well as any ongoing maintenance costs for the parade float.
- **Option 2** – Status quo

- **Option 3** – Eliminate the annual grant of \$6,500 for the Lethbridge & District Exhibition for Parade Floats in the 2027 operating budget and in future budget years.

Attachment(s)

1. N/A

Link(s)

1. [2023-2026 Operating Budget: Grant & Fee for Service Summary \(pg. 267\)](#)