

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Ministry of Long-Term Care One-Time Funding Allocation

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Woodingford Lodge

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council authorizes staff to proceed with investing the Ministry of Long-term Care one-time funding allocation in key priorities as outlined in Report WDFL 2024-04, including new projects not previously approved in the 2024 budget totalling \$53,810 to optimize the use of the one-time funding totalling \$579,804, supplemented by funding from the Woodingford Lodge Capital Reserve contributions in the amount of \$785,408.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- This one-time funding is intended to provide financial support for long-term care homes to help relieve financial pressures to address key priorities and regulatory requirements related to long-term care facilities.
- One-time funding of \$2,543 will be provided for each licensed bed
 - \$406,880 for Woodstock site
 - \$86,462 for each of Tillsonburg and Ingersoll sites
 - \$579,804 for Woodingford Lodge in total.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Upon Council approval, staff will proceed in collaboration with Public Works - Facilities to complete the proposed capital projects. The implementation involves support from Public Works to source vendors and facilitate installation according to County policies.

Financial Impact

Staff are recommending one-time funding to be received from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, in the amount of \$579,804, be invested in four projects previously approved in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget, and three additional projects that were anticipated in the near future in order to utilize the funding allocations for each home pursuant to the funding requirements.

The projects as outlined in the Tables 1 and 2 below list previously approved projects that formed part of the 2024 Business Plan and Budget and proposed new projects to optimize the use of the one-time funding allocation.

Table 1 – Summary of Funding Source for Existing 2024 Capital Projects

Project Description	2024 Approved Budget	Proposed Funding Source Change
Woodstock		
Hallway Flooring	\$66,000	One-time funding in the amount of \$66,000
Replacement of Air Handler 1 and 2	400,000	One-time funding in the amount of \$330,370
Woodstock Site Total	\$466,000	
Tillsonburg		
Resident Room Cooling	\$422,811	One-time funding in the amount of \$50,812
Tillsonburg Site Total	\$422,811	
Ingersoll		
Resident Room Cooling	\$422,591	One-time funding in the amount of \$78,812
Ingersoll Site Total	\$422,591	

The projects listed in Table 1 were approved in the 2024 Business Plan and Budget to be funded by the Woodingford Lodge Capital Reserve. Utilizing one-time funding from the Ministry for these projects will result in \$525,994 remaining in reserve for future Woodingford Lodge capital asset needs, increasing the projected 2024 year end balance in the reserve by the same.

Table 2 lists additional projects and their respective funding sources that requires Council approval in order to proceed.

Table 2 – Summary of Funding Source for Proposed New Projects

Project Description	Cost Estimate (inc non refundable HST)	Proposed Funding Source
Woodstock		
Resident Call-Bell Communication and Response System	\$10,510	One-Time Funding
Woodstock Site Total	\$10,510	
Tillsonburg		
Resident Call-Bell Communication and Response System	\$3,650	One-Time Funding
Communications System	4,000	One-Time Funding
Portable Air Conditioner	18,000	One-Time Funding
HVAC Design for 2025 replacement of roof top unit	10,000	One-Time Funding
Tillsonburg Site Total	\$35,650	
Ingersoll		
Resident Call-Bell Communication and Response System	\$3,650	One-Time Funding
Communications System	4,000	One-Time Funding
Ingersoll Site Total	\$7,650	
Total Projects	\$53,810	

Table 3 summarizes the total projects' cost per site and the funding sources, demonstrating that the proposed plan optimally utilizes the funding allocations per bed.

Table 3 – Summary of Projects and Funding Sources

Facility	Total Project Cost	One-Time Funding	WFL Capital Reserve
Woodstock	\$476,510	\$406,880	\$69,630
Ingersoll	430,241	86,462	343,779
Tillsonburg	458,461	86,462	371,999
Total	\$1,365,212	\$579,804	\$785,408

This funding allocation will impact the 2024 Asset Management Plan (AMP) which identified a \$10 million deficit in funding availability for Woodingford Lodge capital lifecycle needs over the 2024 to 2033 period. The strategy of investing the one-time funding as outlined in this report funds key projects within the AMP which will have a minor positive impact on that funding deficit.

Communications



Staff will inform Woodingford Lodge residents of the work and disruptions that will occur when required.

2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Oxford County Council approved the [2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#) on September 13, 2023. The Plan outlines 39 goals across three strategic pillars that advance Council’s vision of “Working together for a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable future.” These pillars are: (1) *Promoting community vitality*, (2) *Enhancing environmental sustainability*, and (3) *Fostering progressive government*.

The recommendation in this report supports the following strategic goals.

Strategic Plan Pillars and Goals

PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3
		
Promoting community vitality	Enhancing environmental sustainability	Fostering progressive government
Goal 1.2 – Sustainable infrastructure and development		Goal 3.1 – Continuous improvement and results-driven solutions Goal 3.4 – Financial sustainability

See: [Oxford County 2023-2026 Strategic Plan](#)

DISCUSSION

Background

The Ministry of Long-Term Care announced in the spring of 2024 that it is providing a one-time investment in long-term care home funding of up to \$201.9 million in 2023–2024. This one-time funding is intended to help relieve financial pressures and address key priorities. It was created primarily to support homes that are not yet compliant in meeting the Ontario Fire Code requirements by January 1, 2025 of having a fire suppression sprinkler system. Being all three Woodingford Lodge locations are compliant with this requirement, this funding may be used for addressing maintenance projects.

County staff have reached out to the Ministry of Long-Term Care to confirm the timeline for spending this one-time funding. Staff have been unable to receive a definitive response to this point and are making the assumption that all funding is to be spent by December 31, 2024 in order to minimize the risk of having to return unspent funds.

Comments

In keeping with the Ministry’s intent for use of the funding, staff have identified projects for each of the Woodingford Lodge sites that would enhance and/or maintain our resident, employee and community members’ safety, as well as ensure the homes remain compliant with the Fixing Long Term Care Act and Regulations. The projects include three new projects that are described in more detail below.

Resident Call-Bell Communication and Response System

The resident tub and shower rooms in each of the Woodingford Lodge locations are to be equipped with an emergency communication response system to alert staff. The provision of care in these rooms can take up to 30 minutes, this safety measure will allow residents, family members and/or assisting staff to call for emergent support from other staff.

Staff are recommending the addition of a visual screen with audible alerts as located in the hallways be added to these locations to ensure staff members are aware of and able to respond to emergencies.

Communications System

The communication system at the Tillsonburg and Ingersoll locations that allows for overhead emergency paging is accessed in only one location within the home, between the main entrance doors and behind a locked panel. If an emergency occurred, staff need to run to this location; locate the key; and open the panel to access the overhead alerting system. To improve this process, an upgrade to the phone system is required to allow staff to page messages from multiple locations that are readily accessible, increasing our emergency response time.

Air Conditioning

As part of the 2024 Long-Term Capital Plan, replacement of the roof top HVAC units in Tillsonburg were planned for 2026, however the roof top HVACs became non-operational and in need of replacement. The one-time funding will allow for design to commence in 2024 for replacement of the non-operational units in 2025 to ensure the facility is able to provide the required temperature control. As an interim solution, a portable unit has been rented on a monthly basis. Staff are recommending the purchase of a portable unit at a cost of approximately \$18,000 to serve as a backup to ensure that temperature controls can be maintained at the Tillsonburg site until the replacement unit is installed and be available for future emergent HVAC backup needs.

CONCLUSIONS

Staff will continue to monitor and commit to maximize funding opportunities to optimize service delivery and complete lifecycle projects identified through asset management planning. This in turn allows for available funding in the Woodingford Lodge Capital Reserve to be directed to other identified lifecycle needs that may have been deferred otherwise.

SIGNATURES

Departmental approval:

Original signed by

Mark Dager
Director of Woodingford Lodge

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer