

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Legacy Oil and Gas Well Year 2 Funding Approval

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Director of Paramedic Services

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That County Council received Report PS 2024-04 entitled “Legacy Oil and Gas Well Year 2 Funding Approval and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and the Director of Paramedic Services to sign a transfer payment agreement related to this funding program as described herein.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- The purpose of this report is to seek authorization for the CAO and the Director of Paramedic Services to execute a transfer payment agreement to access funding under Year 2 of the Legacy Oil and Gas Well Program in invest in:
 - **Capacity Building:** The continued development and integration of crisis management software.
 - **Emergency Response:** Establishment of a common shelter management program and procurement of a remote electronic messaging board.
 - **Financial Impact:** The total budget for these initiatives is \$105,000, which will be covered by the Legacy Oil and Gas Wells Municipal Transfer Payment Program.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Upon signing the transfer payment agreement, staff will begin the recruitment process for the project lead to begin work on the key deliverables of this funding, which is expected to be completed by the end of February 2025.

Financial Impact

These expenditures will be funded through the Legacy Oil and Gas Well Transfer Payment Program, with no additional burden on the county’s operating or capital budgets.

Summary of Costs

Activity	Detail	Budget
Capacity Building	Annual software costs for Everbridge Crisis Management Platform	\$18,720
Training & Development	Hiring project lead, software platform development, Training and Simulation, Municipal Engagement	45,280
Emergency Response	Shelter Management Program and Electronic Messaging Board	41,000
Total		\$105,000

Communications




The public communications portion of the Legacy Oil and Gas Wells multi-year project was completed in Year 1. Year 2 activities are internally focused and will not require public communication. Area stakeholders will be engaged through the project lead.

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 1.3 – Community health, safety and well-being		Goal 3.2 – Collaborate with our partners and communities Goal 3.4 – Financial sustainability Goal 3.5 – Advocate for Oxford County

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

DISCUSSION

Background

Oxford County has been participating in the Legacy Oil and Gas Wells Municipal Transfer Payment Program, aimed at enhancing emergency preparedness and response, particularly related to legacy petroleum wells. Oxford County received \$105,000 in Year 1, and is approved for the same amount of funding in Year 2 & 3 of the program. Year 1 funding enabled the creation of a hazard-specific response plan in collaboration with area municipalities, and the procurement of an online crisis management software platform that is complimentary to the emergency management notification tool already used by some municipalities in Oxford County.

Comments

The program's second year focuses on capacity building, staff training, and emergency response improvements. Oxford County's funding proposal includes the following activities:

Capacity Building: Further development of crisis management software tailored to manage local emergencies, including incidents involving petroleum wells and gas migration. This platform will centralize resources, response plans, roles and responsibilities, and communication channels, thereby improving coordination and response effectiveness.

Training Development: A project lead will be hired (temp. 6 months) to develop the crisis management platform, deliver training and simulation exercises using the platform, and engage with area municipalities on coordinated training for emergency management stakeholders and organizing emergency response plans to be used inside the crisis management tool.

Emergency Response: Establishment of a shelter management program and procurement of a remote electronic messaging board to improve communication during emergencies.

CONCLUSIONS

The proposed activities align with the strategic goals of enhancing community safety and well-being, as well as fostering a progressive and financially sustainable government. Approval of the funding and authorization for signing the required documents will allow these critical initiatives to proceed, ensuring better preparedness for future emergencies.

SIGNATURES

Departmental approval:

Original signed by

Ryan Hall
Director – Paramedic Services

Approved for submission:

Original signed by

Benjamin R. Addley
Chief Administrative Officer