

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

Funding for Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update and Indigenous Consultation Plan Development

To: Warden and Members of County Council

From: Chief Administrative Officer

RECOMMENDATION

1. That County Council receive Report CAO 2025-01 entitled “Funding for Community Safety and Well-Being Plan Update and Indigenous Consultation Plan Development” and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer and Treasurer to reallocate the unused 2025 Grant Policy Program funding of up to \$118,500 to support two objectives approved in the 2025 Business Plan and Budget:
 - a. Safe and Well Oxford Community Safety and Well-Being Plan update; and
 - b. Development of an Oxford County Indigenous Consultation Plan.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite advocacy efforts, Oxford County has been unsuccessful thus far in obtaining Community Safety and Well-Being plan funding from the province to support two initiatives within the Strategic Initiatives business plan.
- These initiatives are key to advancing the County’s Strategic Plan, the goals and objectives within the Safe and Well Oxford plan, and supporting overall well-being, respect and inclusivity within our communities.

IMPLEMENTATION POINTS

Following Council approval of the above recommendation, two separate procurement processes would be initiated to source a consultant to facilitate the development of an updated Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan and one for the Indigenous Consultation Plan. Advocacy efforts will continue to obtain future funding from the province, specifically allocated to the goals and objectives within the Safe and Well Oxford plan.

Financial Impact

Funding in the 2025 Business Plan and Budget for the purposes of carrying out an update for the CSWB plan and development of an Indigenous Consultation Plan, was based on Provincial grant funding. Considering the Province has been non-responsive to municipalities' efforts seeking funding for these purposes, staff are proposing reallocation of the remaining 2025 County Grant Program funding. The remaining balance in the 2025 County Grant Program is \$118,500.

Communications




The recommendation contained in this report do not require a public communication strategy. Throughout the projects themselves, staff will engage with area municipalities and a variety of community partners to inform both plans. The Canadian Index of Well-Being survey is being implemented in 2025 and will be a key source of data for the updated Community Safety and Well-Being plan.

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

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

DISCUSSION

Background

Through the 2023-2026 Strategic Plan, a commitment was made to “*Explore Oxford’s role in the “Calls to Action” contained within the Truth and Reconciliation report.*” Part of this commitment includes building effective relationships with our Indigenous communities and developing an Indigenous Consultation Plan.

Ontario regulation 414/23 requires that a municipal council must review and, if appropriate, revise its CSWB Plan every four years. Based on the work and progress of the CSWB Plan thus far, it is important that a full review and update be completed to not only ensure that the priority risk areas are reflective of community needs, but also to explore various governance models to facilitate maximum success in the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Safe and Well Oxford plan.

During the 2025 Business Plan and Budget process, the Strategic Initiatives division included these two key projects to advance the Strategic Plan, Safe and Well Oxford, as well as the overall well-being of our communities. At the time, due to a recent AMO delegation with the Solicitor General, County staff were optimistic that ongoing advocacy and follow up would lead to funding from the province that would be utilized to cover the cost of obtaining a consultant to facilitate the development of an updated CSWB plan, as well as a consultant to develop an Indigenous consultation plan. Unfortunately, based on a recent ROMA delegation with Ministry staff for the Solicitor general, it is very unlikely that the County will be receiving any funds to support our work associated with Safe and Well Oxford.

Comments

Despite advocacy efforts, the County has not yet been successful in securing funding from the province to cover administrative and other project related costs associated with the CSWB plan. Advocacy focused on this area will continue in 2025, but funding is unlikely to be obtained due to the provincial election and the direction received at ROMA from Ministry staff with the Solicitor General. Considering this, it is important to continue with the projects identified as they represent significant work in promoting overall well-being within the County. On that basis, staff are seeking Council approval to use remaining funds in the 2025 Grant Policy Program to complete these projects in 2025.

CONCLUSIONS

Although advocacy efforts have been unsuccessful thus far in seeking funding specific to the Safe and Well Oxford plan, it is important for the benefit of our communities, to continue with these projects and to utilize the unallocated funding as recommended in this report.

SIGNATURES

Report author:

Original signed by

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Approved for submission:

Original signed by

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Chief Administrative Officer