



Subject: Municipal Modernization Program - Amending Agreements
To: Council
From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

Report Number: 2023-33

Meeting Date: February 28, 2023

Recommendation:

That Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Economic Development and Tourism Division report 2023-33 be received; and

That Council approve the Amending Agreements between the City of Port Colborne and the provincial government for funding from the Municipal Modernization Program, attached as Appendices A to D;

That a by-law to enter into Amending Agreements be approved; and

That the Mayor and Acting City Clerk be authorized to sign the by-law and the Amending Agreements.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to have Council approve Amending Agreements with the Province of Ontario for funding received for four projects through intake three of the Municipal Modernization Program, and to request that Council authorize the Mayor and Acting City Clerk to sign the Amending Agreements.

Background:

The Province created the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP) in 2019 to provide municipalities with funding to modernize services and processes and find cost savings and efficiencies in their operating budgets. The province committed \$125 million in funding over four years. The City of Port Colborne was successful in securing funding from intakes one, two, and three. Intake three, which was announced in August 2021, included two streams:

1. The “implementation stream” provided provincial cost-sharing for municipalities to undertake projects that increase municipal efficiency and effectiveness.
2. The “review stream” provided funding for municipalities to undertake expenditure reviews with the goal of finding efficiencies and lowering costs in the longer term.

In the fall of 2021, staff submitted eight applications to the third intake of the MMP for both the implementation and review streams. The province approved six applications. These applications were for capital projects and corporate priorities planned in 2022, and they addressed the MMP priorities of digital modernization and service integration.

The Province provided funding for the following projects:

Project	Provincial Contribution	City Contribution	Total Project
Telecommunications System Modernization	\$59,530	\$32,055	\$91,585
Fire/Emergency Services Digitization and Records Management	\$59,530	\$32,055	\$91,585
Digitizing Public Works Permit Process	\$16,536	\$8,905	\$25,440
Route Patrol Software	\$9,922	\$5,343	\$15,265
Departmental Organization Review	\$45,792	\$ -	\$45,792
Human Resources Management and Information Systems Review	\$76,320	\$ -	\$76,320

Staff report 2022-31, which included the Transfer Payment Agreements between the City and the Province for each project, was approved at the February 22, 2022, Council meeting.

Discussion:

At the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference on January 25, 2023, Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark announced that the deadline for municipalities to complete and report on all approved implementation stream projects was being extended from February 28, 2023, to December 1, 2023. This timeline change requires an amendment to the Transfer Payment Agreements approved by Council on February 22, 2022. The Province has sent four Amending Agreements to the City for Council approval and signing by the Mayor and Acting City Clerk.

Final reports for the review stream projects were due on January 31, 2023, and these were completed by City staff and filed with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Internal Consultations:

The MMP applications were a collaborative effort between Economic Development and Tourism Services, Information Technology, Corporate Services, Human Resources, Fire and Community Safety, and Planning and Development.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillars of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
 - Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability
 - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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Conclusion:

The City of Port Colborne was successful in securing funding for six projects from intake three of the Province's Municipal Modernization Program (MMP): four from the implementation stream and two from the review stream. Municipal Affairs Minister Steve Clark announced at the end of January that there is an extension for municipalities to submit their final reports for implementation stream projects. This extension, changed from February 28, 2023 to December 1, 2023, requires that Amending Agreements between the City and provincial government be signed for each of the four implementation stream projects.

Appendices:

- a. Amending Agreement - Telecommunications System Modernization
- b. Amending Agreement - Fire and Emergency Services Digitization and Records Management Implementation
- c. Amending Agreement - Digitizing Public Works Permit Process

- d. Amending Agreement - Route Patrol Software
- e. Draft By-law

Respectfully submitted,

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Report Approval:

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.