

Grants to organizations policy review

Summary of Councilor survey

Here is what councilors said!

1. Council is happy with the amount of money spent, in fact, some would agree to spend more – so the amount we are investing in our communities is acceptable to Council!
2. Council values **many** things about our Grants to Organizations, namely:
 - a. *It is a visible contribution to our communities*
 - b. *It strengthens volunteer groups, and helps them find other volunteers*
 - c. *It supports vital infrastructure in our communities*
 - d. *Supports awesome events held in our communities*
3. When prioritizing how money is to be invested in our communities, Council preferred to invest in infrastructure – namely, fire department support, and infrastructure support for halls and other similar buildings. Council also values events and festivals, and if given the choice, it would put funding for operations lower on the priority scale.
4. Council prefers to invest in a handful or organizations for larger support than spread the money too thin. Council believes strongly that applications should be assessed for merit and urgency.
5. Council was mixed on how best to allocate funds. Their responses were split amongst treating our districts as equally as possible, and focused spending based on pre-set categories (tourism, halls, trails). This will challenge staff to recommend a model that does both, and it does tell staff that there is room for a form of district community grant as part of a future funding model.
6. Council was very clear that the policy is for Argyle. The majority is willing to consider requests outside Argyle ONLY if they fit a certain predefined criterion. Staff will be looking for additional direction here from Council and present options.
7. Council wants to lead the decision-making process, they want to predetermine some grants to happen easily, but want to see the remaining applications and decide themselves how they should be supported. The applications themselves will reflect the information you prefer to see as councilors.
8. Council supports accountability, but a reasonable level of it. Council preferred staff to follow up only on larger requests and was supportive of holding back funds (as we already do) for larger payouts. Some councilors also liked the idea of random audits.