| | Item: Argyle Christmas Tree Fund |
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| Municipality of the District of Argyle | Date: November 9, 2021 |

## VISION STATEMENT

**We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region, and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

**Argyle will provide affordable traditional municipal services for our citizens. Furthermore, Argyle will provide leadership by being actively engaged with the business community to understand their needs, and facilitate growth. We will create innovative programs to foster growth both for community and industry. We will create an environment where our residents seek our partnership in the projects that matter most, and we will provide the expertise needed to ensure those projects are successful.  We seek to support and instill cultural pride and a sense of place in our communities. Our mission is founded on the belief that our community assets are plentiful, none more precious than its people, and that Argyle's assets possess the answers to our most difficult challenges.**

**Background:** In the fall of 2020, with the Covid-19 pandemic still putting restrictions on public events such as the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, it was recommended that organizations take pride in their communities and put up their own Christmas tree so that the number of individuals attending the ceremonies would be within the limits allowed by Public Health.  The Municipality would provide funding opportunities for this to happen.  Electoral districts could fund up to $500.  Electoral districts could combine to support one organization.  Electoral districts could fund more than one organization but not fund more than $500 in total.  All 9 electoral districts provided funding to a total of 12 organizations within the Municipality of Argyle.

**Attachments/Additional Information:** A total of $4162.33 was spent on the Argyle Christmas Tree Fund.  Organizations had to request funding by filling out the application form and if more than $250 was requested, receipts were required.  If the request was $250.00 or less, receipts were not required.

**MGA, Costs and Budget Considerations:**
The maximum cost to the municipality would be $4500 per year (9 councillors x $500).

**Recreation Department Recommendations:**
Option #1:

- New organizations could apply as a first-time request for a maximum of $500 with receipts included. If only requesting $250, then proof of purchase would not be necessary.
- Organizations that received funds in 2020 could apply again, however, only for a maximum of $250 and receipts would be required this time around. This would be their last time requesting funding for this event.
- All purchases need to be for the decorating, lighting, or related items pertaining to the Christmas tree.
- This funding opportunity was created because of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore should be re-assessed in 2022.

Option #2:
- New organizations could apply as a first-time request for a maximum of $500 with receipts included. If only requesting $250, then proof of purchase would not be necessary.
- Organizations that received funding in 2020 would not be eligible to receive funding this year.
- All purchases need to be for the decorating, lighting, or related items pertaining to the Christmas tree.
- This funding opportunity was created because of the Covid-19 pandemic and therefore should be re-assessed in 2022.

**Suggested Motion**

It is moved that Council approve the Argyle Christmas tree fund (option 1 or option 2) for 2021 up to a maximum of $4,500, which is equivalent to $500 per Councillor.