



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: CIFA Funding request

Date: November 16, 2023

Our Vision

Argyle is the community of choice to invest, live and play.

Our Identity

*Argyle **invests** time & talent in growth opportunities in fishing, tourism, and renewable energy sectors.*

*Argyle provides affordable taxation while providing safe and **livable** communities and strives to engage and inform our residents on decisions that affect them most.*

*Argyle provides high class, accessible recreational and cultural facilities for health and for **play**.*

Background:

On October 27, the Argyle municipality received communication from Radio CIFA, a French radio station serving the Argyle area. The message outlined an urgent need for roof repairs and requested an emergency grant from the municipality to help cover the expenses associated with a new roof installation. Radio CIFA provided cost estimates for materials, ranging from \$900 to \$1400, excluding labour costs.

It is important to highlight that this communication was also shared with the Clare municipality. In response to the request, the Clare council has approved funding for 50% of the project, with a cap of \$2000.

Other considerations:

Currently our policy does not address this type of request, and historically, the council has addressed such situations on an individual basis. Our review of our grant policies included:

- Grants for Organizations,
- District Community Grants, and
- Community Hall Grants.

Regrettably, none of these grants are designed to accommodate emergency requests of this nature. If CIFA had applied for our grants to organizations program, Council could have included it in the evaluation of all grants. As it stands, this request would not be treated the same as other non-profit organizations in our area, as the deadline for the grant to organization has already passed. While the

request is untimely, there is undoubtedly an urgent need of CIFA, who has been a long time supporter of the Argyle community. Also, based on lower than budgeted requests in September, there are still funds available in the Grant to Organization fund.

Council should not approve a contribution outside of its policy. It has the option to amend the policy and then address the request. This option is untimely for CIFA. To avoid the grants to organizations policy, the Municipality may consider a grant to the Municipality of Clare directly, indirectly to Radio CIFA as per 1.3 of the policy which states:

1.3. This program does not govern the following, which are separately administered:

- a) **Grants and contributions pursuant to inter-municipal** or other regional agreements, such as the Yarmouth International Airport Corporation or the Western REN.
- b) Municipality of Argyle Fire Services operating & capital grants.
- c) Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations (full and partial tax exemption bylaws);
- d) Residential Property Tax Rebates (low-income homeowners); and
- e) Approved funding for the Argyle Courthouse and Gaol, which is owned by the Municipality and not subject to grants to a separate organization.
- f) Funding requests received by YASTA and the Yarmouth Area Industrial Commission.

Under this interpretation, a motion to contribute to Clare could constitute an agreement between both parties.

Council Practical Options

Option #1 The Council could deny the request.

Option #2 The Council could approve paying a certain percentage of this project up to a maximum amount directly to the Municipality of the District of Clare.

Recommendation:

Recommendation(s): Whereas the Municipality of Clare is prepared to pay 50% of the project and whereas Radio CIFA serves our municipality and has a satellite office in our municipality which our residents do enjoy, this ought to receive Council consideration. CIFA is not a regular customer on requests for financial support, so their request should be considered in that lens. Furthermore, Radio CIFA has committed to absorbing the labour cost of this roofing project. The recommendation is to pay 50% of the material cost of the project to a maximum of \$1,500. Also, that the money is taken out of the Grants to organization fund.

Suggested motion:

Suggested Motion: Council approves to pay up to 50% of the material cost for the Radio CIFA roofing project to a maximum of \$1,500. The money would be coming from the Grant to Organization fund for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year and payable to the Municipality of the District of Clare.