

Report to Council



Date: January 20, 2025
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: 2024 Grants Summary
Department: Partnerships Office

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Partnerships Office, dated January 20, 2025, with respect to the 2024 Grants Summary;

Purpose:

To provide Council a summary of the 2024 Grants Management Program.

Background:

The City of Kelowna actively pursues alternative revenue through grants. The City receives funds from external providers, with the majority of grants coming from the federal and provincial governments. Grants are aligned with Council, corporate priorities, City master plans, and the 10-Year Capital Plan. This funding leverages City dollars to propel priority capital and operating projects.

Discussion:

The City is in a constant cycle of planning, securing, and managing grants. The Grant Management Policy, Grant Procedure Manual, Grants Database, and Grants Dashboard help to ensure the City has a robust and well managed Grant Management Program.

2024 Grant Summary

In 2024, the City was awarded 18 grants with a total value of \$7.4 million. Table 1 provides the 2024 Grant Summary and Appendix A includes a detailed overview of the 2024 grant activity.

Table 1: 2024 Grant Summary

Grant Status	Definition	Value of Grants
18 Grants Awarded	Refers to the grants that were approved in 2024.	\$7.4 million
45 Grant Contracts Managed	Refers to the grants that were awarded in 2024, as well as multi-year grants managed in 2024.	\$115 million

2024 Grant Highlights

In 2024, the City was awarded \$7.4 million in conditional grants. A few significant grants that were awarded in 2024 are highlighted below:

- **Clean BC Communities Fund:** The City was successfully awarded this grant from the Government of Canada to implement the H₂O Modernization Project to reduce emissions, install solar panels, and install EV chargers (\$2.5M).
- **ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund:** In 2023 and 2024, the City of Kelowna was awarded significant funding through the Province of BC's ChildCareBC New Spaces Fund to enhance childcare facilities. In 2024, the City was awarded a grant for the YLW childcare facility building extension with an additional 24 spaces bringing the centre to 110 childcare spaces overall (\$2.5M).
- **BC Active Transportation Infrastructure Fund:** The Rail Trail to Greenway Active Transportation Corridor was funded in part through the Province of BC's Active Transportation Infrastructure's Grants Program. This project extends Leckie Road ATC, enhancing safety and accessibility with new traffic signals, improved pathways, and better connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists (\$500k).
- **Fairs, Festivals & Events Fund:** The City was successfully awarded this Provincial grant to support Kelowna hosting Canadian Country Music Week in September 2025 (\$200k).
- **ACT Agreement:** City of Kelowna showcased leadership skills through the Housing Accelerator Fund by creating the HAF Dashboard and participating in the Accelerating Housing Knowledge Sharing Series. City of Kelowna staff led 2 of 4 webinar series with 250 attendees across 74 municipalities sharing knowledge and successful initiatives (\$100k).
- **Jay's Care Field of Dreams:** The City of Kelowna, in partnership with the Central Okanagan Minor Baseball Association (COMBA), received a Field of Dreams grant from the Jays Care Foundation, with equal contribution from the City. The project includes several key improvements, installation of a wood backstop with padding to enhance player safety, dugout upgrades to improve accessibility and player safety, fence padding, signage, new dugout benches, grass infield and irrigation upgrades (\$72k).

Grants In Action

There were several multi-year grants in action in 2024 that supported new infrastructure in the community, a few which are highlighted below:

Destination Development Fund

The Island Stage Rejuvenation project was funded in part by a grant in the amount of \$998k from the Destination Development Fund. The Island Stage Rejuvenation is an initiative aimed at revitalizing the aging structure of the Island Stage in Waterfront Park. The project is designed to create more opportunities for events and expand the park area for public enjoyment when events are not taking place. The scope of the project includes upgrading electrical services and installing a new low-maintenance event stage and canopy. The project also involves the demolition of existing stage features, utility upgrades, backfilling the human-made moat to increase stage accessibility and audience capacity, and various upgrades for the stage. The project is scheduled for completion in Spring 2025.

Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

The Mill Creek Flood Protection project continues to be a significant initiative aimed at enhancing flood protection and improving environmental conditions along Mill Creek in Kelowna. The project's ultimate goal is to safely convey a one-in-200-year flood event through the City. The work includes a number of sub-projects that each provide flood protection on City-owned areas and the industrial corridor. Each

sub-project incorporates a balanced approach that considers localized goals, flood protection needs, water quality improvements, and enhancing fish spawning habitat. Funding for the Mill Creek Flood Protection project comes from multiple sources including a grant from the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund for \$22 million.

Rick Hansen Foundation

The City received a grant from Rick Hansen for accessibility upgrades at Okanagan Heritage Museum and Parkinson Activity Centre that focused on creating an inclusive environment by breaking down physical barriers to accessibility for people with disabilities affecting their mobility, vision, or hearing. The improvements included the planning and design of the entrance, installation of automatic door openers, handrails, outdoor grips and other accessibility upgrades for a total of \$82k. Rick Hansen Foundation is supported by the Province of BC.

Direct Funding Allocations

In addition to the above grants, the City was also awarded the following funding through direct annual funding allocations from senior levels of government:

- Canada Community-Building Fund: the City was awarded \$6.6 million in 2024 from the Government of Canada to provide predictable funding to local governments for investment in infrastructure and capacity-building.

In addition to the above grants, the City received direct investments from the Province of BC including:

- A new purpose-built complex care facility.
- The HEART and HEARTH program.

Direct funding allocations are supported by the Grants Team, however, are not included in the Grant Management Program totals as per the Grant Management Policy.

Annual Grant Summary

In 2024, the number and dollar value of grants awarded, and contracts managed has decreased in comparison to the previous year, however there are a number of grant applications pending. Table 2 outlines the annual grant summary from 2020-2024.

Table 2: Annual Grant Summary (2020-2024)

Year	Grants Awarded	Contract Managed
2020	\$1.8 million	\$36 million
2021	\$20 million	\$56 million
2022	\$27 million	\$67 million
2023	\$68 million	\$129 million
2024	\$7.4 million	\$115 million

* Note: Table 2 includes conditional grants as per the Grant Management Policy and does not include grants / funding that was directly awarded or annually allocated.

It is important to note that grants are cyclical and competitive. Therefore, there will be years where the City may receive additional funding, and other years where the City receives less grant funding. In 2024, the City was awarded less grant funding than the previous year, however staff continue to manage a significant grant portfolio which included \$115 million in grant contracts.

Conclusion:

Numerous City staff are involved in grant-related projects. These typically include longer-term projects which involve a significant administrative commitment and requires a thorough "one-team" approach to achieve success. Dedication and hard work from many staff across the City has been instrumental in securing, managing and delivering grants for the community.

As a fiscally responsible municipality, external grant funding is an essential component of the City's alternative revenue generation to support and enhance City capital and operating projects. This funding leverages municipal resources and aids in furthering Council, corporate and community priorities. The City will continue to actively pursue grant opportunities in 2025 that align with Council priorities and the 10-Year Capital Plan.

Internal Circulation:

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Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

Consultation and Engagement:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

K. March, Grants & Special Projects Manager

Approved for inclusion: M. Kam, Partnerships Office Director

Attachments:

- Attachment A: 2024 Grant Summary