INFORMATION REQUEST

INFORMATION REQUEST #: IR-011-26

REQUESTED BY: **Councillor Tokar**

TOPIC: **Yellowhead Regional Library Funding Request**

DATE OF REQUEST: **November 2, 2026**

DATE OF RESPONSE: November 2, 2026

QUESTION: Did we receive a request from the Yellowhead Regional Library for a levy increase? There is no business case in the budget for this.

Response

The Yellowhead Regional Library (YRL) is slightly different than the Spruce Grove Public Library, mainly due to the regional nature. They do not send or present a "request" but rather notification of the per capita levy approved by the Board.

Background

As the Yellowhead Regional Library is regional in nature, once their Board has approved their budget and municipal per capita levy, it is sent to the municipalities for notification and inclusion in each budget. The City relies on its representative on the board to understand, scrutinize, and ultimately approve the YRL budget. Beyond that, the City does not have the ability to refuse or reduce funding as this has an impact on all other regional partners. This is in place so that the same can't happen to the City whereby if another partner decides not to approve the funding the City and other partners would then be left making up the difference.

This is different than the Spruce Grove Public Library (SGPL) in that the City has the ability to approve or reduce the funding request since it is the largest funder. Normally, the City does not do a business case for year-over-year funding requests for the SGPL but rather includes it within the

base budget and departmental presentations. As identified for 2027, the SGPL made an increased budget request after the time the City had already prioritized and finalized its budget. Therefore, the delta between the original request and updated request was included as an "unfunded" Business Case for Council's consideration.

Financial Implications / Taxation Impact

The 2027 YRL per capita levy is included in the recommended budget.

Contact: David Wolanski, General Manager Community and Protective Services