The City of SPRUCE GROVE

**INFORMATION REQUEST**

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| **INFORMATION REQUEST #:** | IR-013-26 |
| **REQUESTED BY:** | **Councillor Mastaler** |
| **TOPIC:** | **Wayfinding Debt Servicing and Lifecycling** |
| **DATE OF REQUEST:** | **November 2, 2026** |
| **DATE OF RESPONSE:** | November 3, 2026 |

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**QUESTION:** Funding wayfinding through long term debt - will we need to pay the debt servicing for these capital investments even after they're lifecycled?

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**Response**

The 3-year Wayfinding Implementation project will result in the installation of numerous signage assets of varying types, values, and useful lives throughout the city.

Administration does not currently intend to incorporate the majority of signage resulting from this project into the City's formal lifecycle funding plans. The City's lifecycle plans are generally focused on higher-value assets where long-term replacement planning is necessary to ensure reserve funding is available when major renewals or replacements are required.

Most wayfinding signage will consist of individual components which are expected to be maintained, repaired, or replaced as needed through existing repair and maintenance operating budgets. As a result, Administration does not anticipate a need for a dedicated lifecycle funding source for the majority of signage installed through this project.

If a significant asset is constructed as part of the project, such as a major monument or pylon sign with a substantial value and long service life, Administration would evaluate whether that asset should be incorporated into an existing lifecycle plan and funded accordingly.

Accordingly, while debt servicing costs would continue for the approved debenture term of 20 years, Administration does not currently anticipate that the majority of assets resulting from this project would require ongoing lifecycle reserve contributions beyond the debt repayment period.

**Background**

The purpose of the Wayfinding Implementation project is to establish a consistent wayfinding and signage program across the City of Spruce Grove. Historically, signage has been installed on an as-needed basis, which has resulted in variations in appearance, standards, and placement throughout the community.

The project will be delivered over three years and will create a large number of signage assets across the city. These assets will vary significantly in value, complexity, and expected service life.

The City maintains lifecycle plans for selected asset classes where advance planning and reserve funding are necessary to fund significant future replacement or rehabilitation costs. Not all City assets are included within formal lifecycle plans. Lower-value assets are often maintained or replaced through existing operating budgets as required, and higher-value assets that are not currently integrated into lifecycle plans are managed through annual capital programs that are brought forward to Council for approval annually as part of the budget and fiscal plan process.

Administration anticipates that most signage installed through the Wayfinding Implementation project will be managed through routine operating maintenance and replacement practices rather than through dedicated lifecycle reserve funding.

**Financial Implications / Taxation Impact**

The Wayfinding Implementation multiyear project includes a total capital investment of $2.4 million over the 2027 to 2029 period and is funded through debt. The Proposed 2027-2029 Budget & Fiscal Plan includes the associated debt servicing costs over the 20-year debenture term.

Administration does not currently anticipate that the majority of signage assets created through this project will require dedicated lifecycle reserve funding. Ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement costs are expected to be accommodated within operating budgets, with lifecycle funding considered only for any significant assets that may warrant inclusion in a formal lifecycle plan as part of the annual capital planning and budget process

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