



Graham Raw Water Reservoir - Drought and Flood Protection Program (DFPP) Grant

Electoral Division: 5

File: N/A

Date:	September 10, 2024
Presenter:	Jeannette Lee, Acting Executive Director of Operations
Department:	Capital & Engineering Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Graham Raw Water Reservoir (RWR) is part of the larger system providing potable water to the development areas of East Balzac and Conrich, also referred to as the East Rocky View Water & Wastewater System. Effectively planning for future growth and enhancing drought resilience through the creation of offsite water storage to ensure resiliency in the system is essential. These improvements will help ensure that our water supply can meet increasing demand while safeguarding against potential shortages. The initial phase of this project involves exploring options and potential locations for expanding raw water storage to address future challenges posed by environmental changes and extended dry periods.

The Drought and Flood Protection Program (DFPP) is a provincial grant funding program that supports municipalities in improving their long-term resilience to drought and flood events. Funding is provided in a cost-shared agreement. The government of Alberta covers 70% of eligible costs, and the County will be responsible for the remaining 30% of costs.

The preliminary engineering work to investigate options and provide high-level guidance for the detail design phase is estimated to cost \$77,000. The province has awarded grant funding totaling \$53,900. It is requested that Council support further funding of this project, allowing the remaining \$23,100 to be allocated from the Water Offsite Levy Reserve.

ADMINISTRATION'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves a budget adjustment of \$23,100 from the Water Offsite Levy Reserve to support the Graham Raw Water Reservoir, as per Attachment A.

THAT Council approves a budget adjustment of \$53,900 in funding from the Drought and Flood Protection Program to support the Graham Raw Water Reservoir, as per Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

The County has various water licences issued by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas (AEPA) under the Water Act as well as Conveyance Agreements with the Western Irrigation District (WID). These licences currently provide water to various communities. The conveyance agreements have restricted flows triggered by low flows in the Bow River. Therefore, if flow within the water body supplying raw water drops below a pre-determined threshold, flow to the existing water system is restricted, thereby placing existing communities at risk of water shortages.

Administration is recommending that the County take a proactive approach to planning for future growth and development by prioritizing the expansion of the Graham (East Rocky View) Water Treatment Plant

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and Raw Water Reservoir. This initiative is crucial to support existing development, accommodate anticipated growth, and address concerns arising from recent drought conditions. The initial phase of the project will be to assess the existing reservoir, evaluate current and projected community needs, and identify potential sites for reservoir expansion. It will also provide preliminary engineering designs and cost estimates, including construction, professional services, and land acquisition, ensuring that the County is well-prepared to meet future demands.

ANALYSIS

Completion of the preliminary engineering and design will provide high level guidance and outline next steps for further design, assessments and ultimately implementation and construction. The Graham RWR improvements will ensure future volumes demands may be met and ensure the County remains resilient during times of severe drought, as well as more sustainable as communities continue to be impacted by the effects of climate change.

COMMUNICATIONS / ENGAGEMENT

No communication or engagement is required.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

The Drought and Flood Protection Program (DFPP) grant application was submitted based on the total estimate cost of \$77,000 in support of the Graham Raw Water Reservoir Project. This grant was recently approved on August 6, 2024, providing grant funding in the amount of \$53,900. Based on the DFPP cost share requirements of 70% provincial and 30% municipal funding, the County would be required to provide funding of \$23,100. The funds will be taken from the Water Offsite Levy Reserve without impacting the overall tax contribution.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Key Performance Indicators		Strategic Alignment
Effective Service Delivery	SD2: Services are resourced and delivered to specific groups as intended, and citizens are satisfied with the outcomes	SD2.2: Citizens satisfied with the County's defined service levels
		Increased capacity of the water supply to ensure no stop in service in future, meeting growing demands and volume requirements.

ALTERNATE DIRECTION

Administration does not have an alternate direction for Council's consideration.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Budget Adjustment Form

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Grant

APPROVALS

Manager:	Jeannette Lee
Executive Director/Director:	Jeannette Lee, Acting
Chief Administrative Officer:	Byron Riemann

