

COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

MEETING DATE: December 12, 2022

**SUBMITTED BY: A. Ulrickson, Manager, Family & Community Support Services; and
L. Howarth, Director, Community & Social Development**

**PREPARED BY: A. Ulrickson, Manager, Family & Community Support Services; and
L. Howarth, Director, Community & Social Development**

REPORT TITLE: Homelessness Working Group – Possibilities for Level of Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Decisions regarding a homeless shelter and level of services provided to our unhoused residents continue to be a challenge in our community. With the heightened focus and pressure on this topic, it is vital that the City consider the future of these services and establish a path going forward. This will not only support Council with advocacy efforts and political pressures but will also guide administration on decision making and objective setting for the future work.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct the Homelessness Working Group to return to Council before the end of Winter 2022/2023 season with updates and recommendations specifically focusing on the long-term possibilities and objectives as outlined in the December 12, 2022, report titled “Homelessness Working Group – Possibilities for Level of Services”.

COUNCIL HISTORY

In September 2022, a group of key City administrative department representatives (RCMP, Enforcement Services, FCSS, and Planning & Economic Development) and the Leduc Regional HUB’s Executive Director, along with a HUB board representative began meeting bi-weekly to identify issues and analyze the information and history of our homeless winter overnight shelter and services provided. The possibilities being shared with Council are what we consider to be available considerations for our municipality going forward based on research of what other municipalities are doing, best practices identified from the Government of Alberta in their recently released Action Plan (attached), and our current needs and pressures as a community.

With clearer opportunities of the future goals of an overnight homeless shelter and services to be provided, Administration can confirm the short-term objective (current / immediate 2022), as well as work towards the medium (full 2022/2023 winter season), and long-term (Spring 2023 & beyond) objectives.

BACKGROUND / RATIONALE

The following possibilities are being presented:

A. Do Nothing - do not provide/support an overnight shelter option in Leduc.

B. Basic Homelessness Services:

B.1. Basic Status Quo Services:

- ✓ Winter Emergency Shelter November to April with security services and capacity of 10 beds (primarily November to April but not exclusively as per current City approval).
- ✓ Community Day Programming Monday-Friday year-round (current paid staff and volunteer run).

COUNCIL REQUEST FOR DECISION

B.2. Basic *Enhanced Services*

- ✓ Winter Emergency Shelter November to April with security services and capacity of 10 beds (primarily November to April but not exclusively as per current City approval).
- ✓ Community Day Programming Monday-Friday year-round (current staff **plus two additional qualified caseworkers** (on the floor) during Community Day Programming. This would include enhanced services such as case management, triaging, referrals, support, goals setting, behavioral resolution, programming, community liaison, etc.
- ✓ This would allow the Executive Director's time to be allocated to appropriate operational business.

C. Investigate Year-Round 24/7 Wrap-Around Service:

- ✓ Strong intake and case management: housing-focused approach.
- ✓ Social services workers & mental health therapist: recovery-oriented approach.
- ✓ Physical health supports - access/navigation of local doctors, etc.
- ✓ Employment opportunities and/or social enterprise opportunities.
- ✓ Outreach services- changes to front line staffing.
- ✓ This option is likely tied to Provincial funding.

Reflective of the above discussions with the working group some general feedback to note:

- Opportunity A. would be a degradation of current services levels and most likely will not be a fit for our community given our current and anticipated future need
- Opportunity B.1. is already happening as the current state
- Opportunity B.2. is a goal we are hoping to see achieved by the end of December 2022
- Opportunity C. considered dependent on the province's requirements of shelter services and tied to their funding.

STRATEGIC / RELEVANT PLANS ALIGNMENT

City of Leduc Homelessness Prevention and Poverty Framework
1.1.5. Focus on Mental Health and Addictions Supports

ORGANIZATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATION: impacts on workloads could be challenging as we respond to the implications and implementation needs of each opportunity; ongoing intervention efforts from the FCSS team will continue to negatively impact resources allocated to our core/mandated prevention work.

RISK ANALYSIS: FINANCIAL / LEGAL: funding implications may endure, or increase based on each opportunity.

IMPLEMENTATION / COMMUNICATIONS: this could be communicated as part of the upcoming 2023 Anti-stigma campaign; resulting from the Homelessness Prevention and Poverty Framework.

ALTERNATIVES: direct the Working Group to re-evaluate possibilities.

ATTACHMENTS

PPP December 12 Homelessness Working Group
Government of Alberta Action Plan on Homelessness