

To: Mayor & Members of City Council

From: Woodstock Community Grants Advisory Committee

Re: 2024 Community Grant Program

AIM

To advise Council of the Committee’s recommendation for the allocation of funds for the 2024 Community Grants Program and to request that Council authorize the carry-over of any outstanding balance to fund the 2025 Community Grants Program.

BACKGROUND

The Community Grants Advisory Committee met on September 24, 2024, to review applications for the fall intake of 2024. A total of \$140,490.00 from slot revenue was available at the beginning of 2024 with \$80,990.00 being awarded in March. The remaining funds in the amount of \$59,500.00 are currently available for disbursement.

COMMENTS

The Committee received 18 eligible applications requesting a total sum of \$132,600 in grants. The Committee is recommending funding to 11 organizations totalling \$40,200 as follows:

Organization	Purpose of Grant Request	Amount
13 th Woodstock Scouts	Use funds to help keep the cost of camping fees down. The monies would help fund 1 ½ camps.	\$3,000.00
Muslim Association of Woodstock	Funds would be used for the Woodstock Interfaith Community Youth Program to establish a comprehensive support system for youth in the City.	\$3,000.00
Operation Sharing	Funds will be used for their Food for Friends program, which allows residents of Oxford County to shop at local grocery stores with dignity.	\$10,000.00
Oxford Community Foundation	Funds would be used to transition to an integrated system supporting Customer Relationship Management, Accounting, and Communications.	\$4,000.00
Oxford County Community Health Centre	Funds would be allocated to purchase "Welcome Home Kits." These kits are designed to support individuals transitioning from homelessness into apartments, providing them with essential household items.	\$3,000.00

Organization	Purpose of Grant Request	Amount
Oxford Winds Community Concert Band	Funds will be used to cover the operating costs of the organization. They are committed to keeping membership dues low, purchasing and maintaining instruments that they lend at no cost and offering affordable or free concerts to the community.	\$2,000.00
Why Not Us	Funds will be used towards the 2024 Street Mayor Classic 3 on 3 Student Basketball Tournament. The monies will be used to help make up the shortfall to supply food to the participants, prizes and the halftime show.	\$3,000.00
Woodstock Curling Centre	Funding would be used towards the cost of running the organization's Youth and Special Olympic programs.	\$4,500.00
Woodstock Dragon Boat Club	Funds will be used to cover the 2025 Ottawa Ice Dragon Boat Festival registration cost for two boats. The Ottawa event is the only one of its kind in North America. The club promotes fitness through the sport of dragon boating and participates in festivals around Southwestern Ontario.	\$2,100.00
Woodstock Legion Athletic Club	To cover the cost of student-athletes competing at competitions throughout Ontario and Canada. Funds would be used to cover travel costs for athletes and provide safe equipment for training at the club's track facilities.	\$2,600.00
Woodstock Minor Football Association	Funds will be used to grow the program by including summer skills camps, which are fundamental for football through the flag program for kids. The funds will also be used to update expired equipment and help keep registration costs down, removing financial barriers to families struggling with the rising costs of sports organizations.	\$3,000.00

If the recommended grants are approved by Council, \$19,300.00 will remain in the community grants account. The Committee passed a motion to request City Council authorize the remaining account balance be carried over to fund the grant program in 2025. As City Council is aware, 15% of the previous year's slot machine revenue is allocated to the Community Grants Program. Allowing the funds to be carried over to the 2025 budget year would provide supplementary funding for the 2025 Community Grants Program.

RECOMMENDATION

That in accordance with Community Grants Policy GA003, Woodstock City Council allocates the following grants for the year 2024:

Organization	Amount Awarded
13 th Woodstock Scouts	\$ 3,000.00
Muslim Association of Woodstock	\$3,000.00
Operation Sharing	\$10,000.00
Oxford Community Foundation	\$4,000.00
Oxford County Community Health Centre	\$3,000.00
Oxford Winds Community Concert Band	\$2,000.00
Why Not Us	\$3,000.00
Woodstock Curling Centre	\$4,500.00
Woodstock Dragon Boat Club	\$2,100.00
Woodstock Legion Athletic Club	\$2,600.00
Woodstock Minor Football Association	\$3,000.00

And further that Woodstock City Council authorizes the remaining account balance from account 0204-83747-0000 be carried over to the 2025 budget year to provide supplemental funding for the 2025 Community Grants Program.

Authored by: Cynthia Hislop, Clerks Services Coordinator

Approved by: Joel Hamilton, Chairperson, Community Grants Advisory Committee