

**To:** David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer  
**From:** Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation  
**Re:** Community and Social Well Being Reserve Fund

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### **AIM**

To seek Council's authorization to use \$50,000 from the Community and Social Well Being reserve fund in order to provide increased sanitation items and services to unhoused residents within Woodstock.

### **BACKGROUND**

On June 29<sup>th</sup> the Mayor's Community and Social Well-Being Task Force met consisting of Mayor Jerry Acchione, Councillor Kate Leatherbarrow, Councillor Liz Wismer-Van Meer. Representatives from the following agencies and departments were also in attendance: Canadian Mental Health Association, Oxford County Community Health Centre, Operation Sharing, Southwestern Public Health, Woodstock Hospital, County of Oxford, Woodstock Police Services, Woodstock Fire, Woodstock Works, and Woodstock Parks.

One of the discussion items that emerged as an early priority, from a health and safety perspective as well as potential positive mental health outcomes, is improved sanitation within encampments.

### **COMMENTS**

To begin to quickly facilitate the goals of improving sanitary conditions within encampments, the following services and categories would be considered within scope:

- Contract sanitation services for encampment sites that have been abandoned and require a full cleanup.
- Direct supplies to be given to front line support agencies. This would include PPE, waste collection and hazardous waste collection, and disposal of items.

There will be some impacts on City departmental staff time which will not be captured in this funding envelope request but could have an impact on other service levels. However, staff will attempt to minimize the impact.

The funding envelope of \$50,000 has been based on a rough initial estimate of immediate costs and it is foreseeable that a future more fulsome request will be coming forward once all agencies have assessed their needs in serving the unhoused.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Woodstock City Council approves \$50,000 from the Community and Social Well Being reserve fund in order to provide increased sanitation items and services to encamped residents within Woodstock.

*Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks and Recreation*

*Approved by: David Creery, M.B.A., P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer*