



Staff Report to Council

DATE: Monday, October 21, 2024

DEPARTMENT: Legislative Services

SUBJECT: Ukraine Funding Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Vancouver Island Supports the Ukraine (VISU) recently approached the City to request that Council consider providing \$5,000 in 2024 prior to their upcoming deployment in late November.

VISU has expressed that they are thankful for Langford's commitment to consider contributing \$5,000 annually through the Financial Plan moving forward commencing in 2025, however due to rising needs in the Ukraine VISU has scheduled an immediate trip to provide assistance.

BACKGROUND:

In 2023, Council supported VISU in the amount of \$5,000 for their humanitarian efforts in the Ukrainian community of Horokhiv. The City's contribution provided technical equipment to establish an after-school educational program focused on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) for students in the community of Horokhiv.

At its Regular meeting held Monday, August 19, 2024, Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Council direct staff to send a letter to the West Shore municipalities of Colwood, Highlands, Metchosin, and View Royal to seek interest in collaborating to support Vancouver Island Supports the Ukraine in their fundraising activities supporting the Ukraine;

AND

That Council direct staff to work with VISU to explore establishing a Friendship City agreement with one of the Ukraine municipalities of Horohiv, Boratyn, Olyka, Kamin-Kashyrsk, and Kivertsy either individually or as a collaboration with one or more of the West Shore municipalities.

AND

That Council consider contributing \$5,000.00 annually in support of the Ukraine through the Friendship City program through the City of Langford's Financial Plan.

COMMENTARY:

VISU has reported that the STEAM program has been successful with both educators and students participating in and benefitting from hands on experience with computers, printers, and 3-D printers. The Mayor of Horokhiv, Victor Hodyk, has asked VISU if they would consider assisting in the expansion of the program by providing additional funds that will be utilized by their staff to acquire new equipment to expand the after-school program curriculum offerings.

VISU and their team of volunteers are approaching Council to request funding for their upcoming deployment scheduled in late November to help meet immediate needs in the Ukrainian communities. The following priorities have been identified by VISU through their Ukrainian partners:

- Establish a regional breast milk center at the Ivano-Frankivsh Regional Children's hospital;
- Work with four (4) Ukrainian School Districts as part of a "global citizenship initiative" promoting community and peace as established by the School District No. 62 (Sooke) School Board; and
- Provide "community-to-community" projects as requested by the Ukrainian partners. For example, the City of Langford, City of Colwood, and District of Oak Bay provided a used school bus, two large diesel generators, and technical equipment for the school district interested in developing a STEAM based after-school activity to benefit educators and students.

At this time, VISU is requesting \$5,000 from the City of Langford in advance of their late November 2024 departure to the Ukraine. As this request is not identified within Council's August 19, 2024, resolution, staff have prepared this report outlining their request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

VISU is requesting \$5,000 from the City of Langford in advance of their next deployment to the Ukraine at the end of November 2024. This amount would be funded from the Council Contingency.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

There are no current Strategic Plan initiatives that directly align with this report.

OPTIONS:

Option 1

THAT Council provide Vancouver Island Supports the Ukraine (VISU) with \$5,000.00 in advance of their November 2024 deployment to the Ukraine funded from Council Contingency.

OR Option 2

THAT Council receive this report for information.

SUBMITTED BY: Melisa Miles, Manager of Legislative Services

Concurrence: Donna Petrie, Senior Manager of Communications & Economic Development

Concurrence: Matthew Baldwin, RPP, MCIP, Director of Development Services

Concurrence: Leah Stohmann, RPP, MCIP, Director of Community Planning and Climate Change

Concurrence: Katelyn Balzer, P.Eng., Director of Engineering and Public Works

Concurrence: Michael Dillabaugh, CPA, CA, Director of Finance

Concurrence: Marie Watmough, Director of Legislative & Protective Services

Concurrence: Darren Kiedyk, Chief Administrative Officer