



## Report to Committee of the Whole

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**From:** Jennifer Ford, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator

**Date:** April 8, 2025

**Subject:** Elgin County Grant & Sponsorship Program: Wallacetown Agricultural Society Grant Application

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### Recommendation(s):

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THAT Elgin County Council approve a grant in the amount of \$5,727.79 to Wallacetown Agricultural Society towards their 2025 office building project; and

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be authorized to execute the Grant and Sponsorship Policy Agreement with Wallacetown Agricultural Society.

### Introduction:

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On October 8, 2024, County Council approved a new and simplified Grant and Sponsorship policy that ensures that all funding requests are handled in a consistent, fair and equitable manner (Appendix I). Through this program, the County of Elgin allocates grants and sponsorships to eligible organizations and initiatives that supports the County's current Mission, Vision and Values, and Council's Strategic Plan.

Under the new policy, Council will consider requests for funding that fall under one of the following two streams:

#### 1. Sponsorships

##### a) Community Programs/Services

Eligible organizations can apply for funding for their program or service that engage in cultural and heritage conservation, public education, health and/or welfare of all people within the Elgin County community; or

##### b) Fairs, Festivals or Events

Eligible organizations can apply for funding for a fair, festival, or event that provides significant benefit to the community.

## **2. Grants**

Grants are awarded by County Council for a significant **capital project** that aligns with the objectives of the County's Strategic Plan and additionally provides a significant economic benefit to the community outside of the scope of Sponsorships.

Eligible applicants under the Sponsorship stream of the program can receive up to \$2,000 towards their program or event. Eligible applicants under the Grants stream of the program can receive up to 10% of their total project budget, not to exceed one half of one percent of the prior year's county levy.

Council awarded sponsorships to twenty-four (24) applicants at its March 25, 2025 meeting. The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to award a grant to Wallacetown Agricultural Society for their office building project.

### **Background and Discussion:**

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Wallacetown Agricultural Society has applied for a capital grant for their office building project. Attached for Council's consideration is the application form and additional documentation that has been submitted to support their request (Appendix II).

Wallacetown Agricultural Society will use grant funds towards the purchase of a prefabricated building, which will include the installation of electrical, lighting, concrete, insulation, and internet. The building will be located at the Wallacetown Fairgrounds, and the goal is to have it completed for the September 2025 Wallacetown Fair.

The estimated total cost of the building project is \$57,277.94. Staff have evaluated the application package based on Schedule B of the attached policy and have determined that the project is eligible to receive 10% of their total budget for the office building project. The request for advertising support is not eligible as this request is more aligned with the Sponsorship stream of the County's program, and groups cannot apply under more than one stream in a calendar year. Staff are recommending that Council award a grant to Wallacetown Agricultural Society in the amount of \$5,727.79.

### **Financial Implications:**

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Council approved \$240,000 in 2025 Budget toward the Capital Grant Program, and staff are recommended that \$5,727.79 be awarded to the Wallacetown Agricultural Society for their office building project.

### **Advancement of the Strategic Plan:**

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Awarding grants under the Elgin County Grants and Sponsorships Policy advances the following:

Strategy 4: Sustainable Community Growth

Goal 1: Promote Economic Development while Respecting Rural Heritage

Tactic 4: Promote tourism-related activities and festivals

**Local Municipal Partner Impact:**

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None.

**Communication Requirements:**

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Correspondence will be sent to the applicant detailing Council's decision and will provide further information regarding reporting back requirements if successful.

**Conclusion:**

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The Elgin County Grants and Sponsorships Program allocates funds to eligible organizations and initiatives that support the County's current Mission, Vision and Values and Council's Strategic Plan. The Wallacetown Fair has applied for a grant to help with their office building project. Each year the Wallacetown Fair enhances the tourism industry in the County of Elgin, which supports Council's Strategic Priorities. Staff are recommending that the Wallacetown Agricultural Society be awarded a grant of \$5,727.79 and that the Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk be authorized to sign a Grants and Sponsorship Policy Agreement, as attached to the policy as Schedule D, between Elgin County and the Wallacetown Agricultural Society.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Approved for Submission

Jennifer Ford  
Director of Financial Services/Treasurer

Blaine Parkin  
Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk

Jenna Fentie  
Legislative Services Coordinator