



Staff Report

Report To: Council Meeting
From: Magda Badura, CAO/Treasurer
Date: 2024-03-14
Subject: Safe Restart Funding

Recommendation:

That West Elgin Council hereby receives the report from M. Badura, CAO/Treasurer re: Safe Restart Funding and that the Municipal Council authorizes the refund payment in the amount of \$6,838.00 of unused funding to the Ministry of Transportation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the SRA Funding received from the Ministry of Transportation and seek council's approval to refund the unused portion of the funds to the Ministry of Transportation.

Background:

In 2020 the Ontario government provided additional funding for the municipalities to help deliver critical transportation services to the residents. The funding was designed to help manage the financial impacts of COVID-19 and was intended to offer immediate assistance towards additional municipal transit expenses incurred, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following table illustrates the maximum allocation amounts that were available across the four phases of SRA funding:

Table 1 – Available Funding

Safe Restart Funding	Amount
SRA – Phase 1	Up to \$16,747.00
SRA – Phase 2	Up to \$30,952.00
SRA – Phase 3	Up to \$3,369.00
SRA – Phase 4	Up to \$6,732.00

In 2020 the Municipality of West Elgin received \$16,747.00 and additional \$3,369.00 was received in 2021. This money had to be allocated towards the transit services to offset COVID-related operating pressures.

To qualify for SRA funding, municipalities were required to submit a report to the Ministry with details of the financial impacts and costs of operations, including priority initiatives, that were being offset by SRA funding. The report had to be filed by each designated deadline and all the eligible expenditures for the reporting period had to be paid prior to the submission of reporting documentation.

Table 2 – Actual Funds Received and Claimed

Safe Restart Funding	Funds Received	Funds Claimed
SRA – Phase 1	\$16,747.00	\$5,455.00
SRA – Phase 2	\$0.00	\$0.00
SRA – Phase 3	\$3,369.00	\$1,965.00
SRA – Phase 4	\$0.00	\$6,619.00
Total	\$20,116.00	\$13,278.00
Net Difference	\$6,838.00	

The above table illustrates the actual amount of eligible expenditures incurred during the eligibility period. A 2019 transit operating budget was used as a baseline for reporting COVID-19 related impacts. Even though the specialized transit was impacted by the pandemic, the financial consequences were mitigated through the cancellation of transit services.

Financial Implications:

Funding received was utilized to offset the overall transit deficit. The refund of funds would have to be incorporated into the 2024 Transit operating budget.

Policies/Legislation:

Safe Restart Funding Transfer Payment Agreement

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Infrastructure Improvement	Recreation	Economic Development	Community Engagement
<input type="checkbox"/> To improve West Elgin's infrastructure to support long-term growth.	<input type="checkbox"/> To provide recreation and leisure activities to attract and retain residents.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To ensure a strong economy that supports growth and maintains a lower cost of living.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To enhance communication with residents.

Respectfully submitted by,

Magda Badura
CAO/Treasurer

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRA Funding - 2024-07-Administration Finance.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Mar 12, 2024

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Terri Towstiuc