

Lac La Biche County

Report

to Council

SUBJECT: Homelessness Costs

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: August 03, 2021

CONFIDENTIAL: No

Purpose: Provide County Council with cost associated with Homelessness

Proposed Motion:

That County Council accept the homelessness costs as information

Options:

County Council accept the homelessness costs information.

County Council direct administration to provide additional information.

County Council not accept the homelessness costs as information

Recommendation:

That County Council accept the homelessness costs as information

Background:

At the regular County Council July 13, 2021, County Council review and approved a partnership with MNA Region 1 to provide a temporary homeless camp in the Bonesville Subdivision. Following the review and approval County Council, the following motion was carried: *"To bring to Council a high-level itemized accountability report to date with expenses related to the MNA lease agreement, and further costs associated with dismantling the previous homeless encampments."*

To date the MNA Lease agreement costs have been administration costs to meet with MNA and review of a lease agreement and legal review at a estimate costs of \$3,000.00

Between 2020 and 2021 FCSS has provide wellness check-ins and distributed limited supplies to the homeless camp at an estimate cost of \$1,000.00 of staff hours and \$1,513.57 for limited supplies, from which FCSS has received a \$500.00 donation from the College students to help offset the costs.

In 2020 Enforcement Services has had 275hrs of staff time to deal with complaints and concerns with homeless camps with an approximate cost of \$11,000 and clean-up cost of \$6,000.00

In 2021 Enforcement Services has had 200 hours of staff time to deal with complaints and concerns with an approximate cost of \$8,000.00 and Clean-up costs of \$12,000.00.

In 2020 Protective Services has responded to 12 separate incidents with 24 apparatus responses for a total of 116 manhours with an approximate cost of \$12,570.00.

In 2021 Protective Services has responded to 3 separate incidents with 6 apparatus responses for a total of 15 manhours with an approximate costs of \$3,600.00.

The above are direct costs to County Operations, this does not include the damage to private and community property or costs to other community services, like Health Services, Ambulance, RCMP, and other community services.

A 2008 study by Patterson et al. demonstrated that 1 homeless person in BC cost the public system in excess of \$55,000.00 per year. If this person was provided adequate housing and supports, the cost would drop to \$37,000.00.

This study also sites information from a study done by Calgary Homeless Foundation in 2008: “The annual costs to supports (including health care, housing, emergency services) are calculated to be \$72,444.00 for people who are transiently homeless, while the cost of chronic homelessness is \$134,642.00 per person.”

Chronic homelessness, refers to episodes of homelessness that typically become more entrenched and ingrained in people’s daily lives due to their long duration, which may be continuous or episodic. Those who are in this category are typically an older population who have experienced long-term unemployment and are more likely to suffer from disabilities, mental and physical health problems, and addictions. People in this situation use a high level of emergency services and institutional supports.

Strategic Alignment:

Strategic Goal 3: Social Wellness

Financial Implications:

Costs:

Source of funding:

Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices:

Internal Impacts:

It is always good for an organization to understand the impact and costs associated to a community social concern.

Communication:

To appropriate staff and community partners

Attachments:

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Presented By:

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