

# Lac La Biche County

# *Report*

to Council

**SUBJECT:** Transitional Housing Project – Site Selection

**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** September 6, 2022

**CONFIDENTIAL:** No

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**Purpose:**

Council tasked Administration with consulting the Task Force on identifying three sites for the Transitional Housing Project facility at the July 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting.

**Proposed Motion:**

That Council approve allocation of (chosen property) for the Transitional Housing facility site.

That Council release the Task Force with acknowledgement for their contributions to the evolution of this project over the past 21 months.

**Options:**

1. Council approves use of Legal Description NW-36-66-14-4, otherwise known as 9902-105 Street, identified by the Transitional Housing Task Force as best for meeting potential needs for quality programs.
2. Council approves use of Legal Description SW-6-67-13-4, otherwise known as 10220-99 Avenue, identified by the Transitional Housing Task Force as suitable for meeting potential needs for quality programs.
3. Council approves use of Legal Description 1197HW-1A, otherwise known as 9027-101 Avenue, identified by the Transitional Housing Task Force as possibly meeting potential needs for quality programs.
4. Council approves use of Legal Description 4313BF 14 19, SW20, otherwise known as 10121-102 Street or the old fire hall, identified by the Transitional Housing Task Force as possibly meeting potential needs for quality programs.

**Recommendation:**

The existing Out of the Elements emergency shelter is in poor condition and does not meet the needs of the community. The transitional housing project would meet the homeless emergency needs and provide additional services over time. The transitional housing units have arrived in the community and require a location for future operations. Council approves use of (chosen property) identified by the Transitional Housing Task Force for the Transitional Housing Program.

**Background:**

Motion 22.749 from the Regular Council Meeting of July 12<sup>th</sup>, directed Administration to meet with the Transitional Housing Task Force to identify three sites for the Transitional Housing Facility. These sites are to be presented for Council's consideration.

Administration met with the Transitional Housing Task Force on July 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss all potential sites for this facility. Important elements for the sites chosen include accessibility by foot to the facility and to other services in the hamlet, and enough property for land-based teaching. Task Force members expressed their concern that the project moves forward to create structure for the homeless population, to create consistency and to mitigate opportunity for disruptive behaviours.

A concern expressed by one of the Task Force members was the need to create a sense of privacy for people utilizing the facility. That is, a space that allows them to conduct regular activities without feeling like they are being scrutinized. This has implications for conducting land-based teaching. People attending the facility will need to feel they can attend outdoor circles or activities freely.

The first recommendation is somewhat removed from being closely watched but will still require some landscaping work to create visual privacy, such as planting trees or tall bushes. The second site recommended will be more in view of the public. This, however, can be mitigated through use of trees, shrubs, etc.

The third recommendation from the Task Force is not a feasible option. It requires a significant amount of work, including road building and bringing services to the site, to make it usable. This site would also mean the disruption or removal of the new Rotary sponsored Disc Golf Course.

Another site the Task Force had previously recommended as a third option is the old Fire Hall. While this site is small for the programming anticipated for this facility accommodation can be sought through partnerships such as with the MNA through the Healing Camp program.

The 6 drill camp units have arrived and are being stored until a location for the Transitional Housing is determined. Depending on the location, we are hoping to have the units ready for operations within 2 to 3 months. The County will apply for zoning and development permits where necessary.

Once the Transitional Units are ready for operation the existing Out of The Elements emergency shelter will be relocated to the new location. Attached is a phasing program to identify the programs that will be available as resources become available. As indicated in the planning stages of the Transitional Housing facility will be operated by a non-profit organization. County FCSS will assist with getting the facility operational.

**Strategic Alignment:**

*Social Wellness:* We advocate for programs, services, and amenities that promote a healthy and connected community.

1. Foster partnerships with local volunteer and community organizations to strengthen the County's ability to respond to the community's changing needs
12. Support initiatives that enable Lac La Biche County to provide support and services with empathy for our residents facing challenges.
13. Prioritize mental health, affordable housing, and addiction initiatives.

**Financial Implications:**

**Costs:** \$143,000

**Source of funding:** Reserve set aside for the Transitional Housing Project

**Relevant Legislation, Policy or Practices:**

- Land Use Bylaws, Building Permits
- Community Engagement: public sessions will be held to discuss the site chosen by Council regarding concerns and potential mitigation strategies to ease concerns.

**Internal Impacts:**

Planning & Development – permits applications, re-zoning process

Parks & Facilities Department – to support the work of land preparation and facility set-up

Finance to move funds as needed

**Communication:**

News Release regarding site chosen.

Public Engagement regarding site identification and re-zoning.

**Attachments:**

Listing of sites recommended by the Transitional Housing Task Force

A breakdown of the Transitional Housing project by phases

Pictures of drill camp purchased

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