
REPORT NAME

Leduc County Library Board request for funding

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve funding support of \$13,000 to the Leduc County Library Board towards the development of a feasibility study to review the need of a future stand-alone library in New Sarepta.

Option:

That Council not approve funding support of \$13,000 to the Leduc County Library Board towards the development of a feasibility study to review the need of a future stand-alone library in New Sarepta.

IMPLICATIONS

Reason: Special projects support

Authority (MGA section/bylaw/policy number): NA

Amount of funding required: \$13,000

Funding source: 2024 final budget – tax dollars

BACKGROUND

During their 2024 budget presentation, the Leduc County Library Board made a funding request of \$13,000 to complete a feasibility study. The total project budget is \$26,000 with remaining funds to be used from the library board's internal savings. This study would evaluate the community's need and interest in developing a stand-alone library in New Sarepta.

This study will inform the County and the board of the benefits and costs of a future library in the community that is not located within the school. The board continues to identify barriers to services due to the current location and the public's hesitancy to use the library because of its location. By completing this study, the board will better understand if there is interest from the community, what opportunities might be available, and estimated operating impacts to library operations outside of the school.

The current partnership provides efficiencies to the County and the school board in sharing the costs of library operations. The school covers all facility maintenance and janitorial costs, while the library board provides many internal resources, such as books and materials.

Leduc County establishes the library board, but it is independently operated as defined by the Library Act. Funds are provided both by Leduc County and the Province of Alberta to support their operations. Leduc County supports five additional regional libraries through the cost-share agreement. The New Sarepta Library is the only library housed in a school.

Submitted by: Dean Ohnysty, Director - Community Services

Reviewed by: Alan Grayston, General Manager - Development and Community Services

Date: April/17/2024

Service levels and cost of service vary across the region. The following provides a high-level summary of library costs in each respective community.

Town of Calmar

- \$160,200 Municipal support
- 35 open hours
- Full time librarian
- All library facility expenses included

Town of Thorsby

- \$53,727 Municipal support
- 31 open hours
- Part time librarian
- No facility expenses included

Village of Warburg

- \$32,767 Municipal support
- 28 open hours
- Part time librarian
- Partial facility expenses included

New Sarepta Library

- \$49,500 Municipal support
- 18 open hours
- Part time librarian
- No facility expenses included