

**COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor and Council

**From:** Administration

**Date:** January 17, 2024

**Subject:** Visitor Centre Caboose Operations 2024

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council approves the 2024 Visitor Services Agreement with the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$28,000;

AND THAT the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement and any related documentation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The District has historically contracted visitor services in Mackenzie to the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce. They have operated the seasonal Caboose Visitor Centre facility at the junction of Hwy 39 and 97 as well as welcomed visitors year-round at their Chamber Office. The service agreement has come up for renewal for 2024. New this year is that the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce has applied for federal funding towards two summer students, with the intention of opening the in-town visitor centre on the weekends, if successful in their application. A copy of the draft agreement has been attached for Council's consideration.

The District has previously provided \$20,000 towards operations in addition to a grant of \$15,000 from Destination BC. Revenue made at the facility is also used to offset expenses. This has amounted to approximately \$4,500 each year but cannot be guaranteed.

In discussion with the Mackenzie Chamber of Commerce, due to inflation, fuel costs, and increased administration of this agreement, the proposed baseline operating funding required for the 2024 Visitor Services Agreement is proposed to increase by approximately \$8,000, from \$35,000 to \$43,000.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

The additional \$8,000 would be allocated from the General Government Operating Budget.



**COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

**Economic Vitality**

- The District is a leader on efforts aimed at diversifying the community's economy, supporting local businesses, and attracting new investment to the community. Diversification, a strong business sector and new investment are key to our economic vitality.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Emily Kaehn, Director of Corporate Services

**Reviewed By:** Corporate and Financial Services

**Approved By:** Chief Administrative Officer