



# REQUEST FOR DECISION

Meeting: April 13, 2026

---

## Community Organizations Operational Grant Funding

---

### **DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:**

The Town of Claresholm annually considers requests from eligible non-profit community organizations for operating grant funding as part of the municipal budget process. Operating grants support organizations that deliver ongoing programs and services which enhance the social, cultural, recreational, and economic well-being of the community.

Town of Claresholm Policy #5.1.01 establishes the criteria, eligibility requirements, and evaluation framework for Community Donations and Operating Grants, and is intended to ensure a fair, transparent, and consistent process for all applicants.

The 2026 Organizational Operating Grant applications were received, reviewed by Administration for completeness and eligibility, and summarized for review by the Audit and Finance Committee at the March 31, 2026, committee meeting.

The 2026 applicants listed below were the same as in previous years, with the addition of the Claresholm Curling Club, who applied for the first time. The applications represent a broad range of community services, including but not limited to recreation, culture, social supports, and community facilities.

- Claresholm Library
- Golf Club
- Community Hall Board
- CArES
- Transportation Society
- Claresholm Child Care Society
- Curling Club

### **DISCUSSION/OPTIONS:**

The 2026 Operating Grant applications were reviewed and discussed by the Audit & Finance Committee. The Committee discussed the overall funding envelope, alignment with approved budget assumptions, and the importance of fiscal sustainability while continuing to support important community organizations.

The committee discussion focused on some key items with regards to the grant allocations:

- Reinforcing Council's responsibility to balance community support with long-term financial sustainability.
- Ensuring that operating grants align with Council priorities and provide demonstrable community benefit.

- Maintaining consistency with Policy #5.1.01 and avoiding year-over-year funding increases that exceed budget capacity unless clearly justified.

With these items in mind, the committee directed administration to decrease each existing organization's grant allotment evenly, in order to provide the Claresholm Curling Club with some funding. In an effort to be fair and consistent the reduction to each of the existing organizations was approximately 4% (+/-). The below table outlines the budgeted amount based on previous years, the total of the requests that came in and the Audit and Finance Committees recommendation to Council for the grant funds.

<b>Organizational Grant Applicants</b>	<b>Approved 2026 Interim Budget</b>	<b>Organization Application Requests Received</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Finance Committee Recommendation</b>
Claresholm Library	178,000	178,000	171,000
Golf Club	50,000	50,000	48,000
Community Hall Board	30,000	30,000	29,000
CAReS	30,000	30,000	29,000
Transportation Society	15,000	15,000	14,500
Claresholm Child Care Society	25,000	25,000	24,000
Curling Club	-	25,000	12,500
	328,000	353,000	328,000

**PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:**

Moved by Councillor \_\_\_\_\_ that the 2026 Community Organizational Operating Grant allocations be awarded per the Audit and Finance Committees recommendation in accordance with Policy #5.1.01 and to remain within the approved 2026 Operating Budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1.) Policy #5.1.01

**APPLICABLE LEGISLATION:**

- 1.)

PREPARED BY: Jennifer Place, Director of Corporate Services

APPROVED BY: Abe Tinney, CAO

DATE: April 8, 2026