



The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Social Services Committee
Open Session
AGENDA

Date: Monday, April 24, 2023

Time: 7:05 P.M.

Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee Present: Councillor Henderson - Chair Presiding, Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair, Mayor Ritsma, Councillor Beatty, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Hunter, Councillor McCabe, Councillor Nijjar, Councillor Sebben, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Joan Thomson - Chief Administrative Officer, Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Tatiana Dafoe - City Clerk, John Paradis - Fire Chief, Anne Kircos - Director of Human Resources, Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Chris Bantock - Deputy Clerk, Karmen Krueger - Director of Corporate Services

To watch the Committee meeting live, please click the following link:

<https://video.isilive.ca/stratford/live.html>

A video recording of the meeting will also be available through a link on the City's website

<https://calendar.stratford.ca/meetings> following the meeting.

Pages

1. Call to Order

The Chair to call the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

3. Sub-committee Minutes

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Sub-committee minutes are attached for background regarding the discussion held at the April 12, 2023 Sub-committee meeting.

4. Delegations

None scheduled.

5. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works

5.1 Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth and Ontario Works Service Agreement (SOC23-013)

10 - 13

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services to deliver the Ontario Works Service Agreement as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Motion by

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services to deliver the Ontario Works Service Agreement as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future

renewal agreements with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

5.2 One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker (SOC23-014) 14 - 16

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled "One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker" (SOC23-014) be received for information.

Motion by

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled "One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker" (SOC23-014) be received for information.

5.3 Service Agreement between Festival Hydro Inc. – Low Income Energy Assistance Program [LEAP] (SOC23-015) 17 - 19

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for the Social Services Department to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Motion by

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for the Social Services Department to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

6. Adjournment

Meeting Start Time:

Meeting End Time:

Motion by

Committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Committee meeting adjourn.



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Social Services Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: April 12, 2023
 Time: 4:30 P.M.
 Location: Council Chamber, City Hall

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Briscoe - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Biehn, Councillor Nijjar

Regrets: Councillor Henderson - Chair, Councillor Wordofa

Staff Present: Kim McElroy - Director of Social Services, Alex Burgess - Manager of Ontario Works, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Kelly Stone - Supervisor of Social Services, Jeff Wilson - Manager of Housing, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Councillor Henderson and Councillor Wordofa provided regrets for the meeting.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

No disclosures of pecuniary interest were made by a Member at the April 12, 2023, Social Services Sub-committee meeting.

3. Delegations

3.1 Request for Delegation by Ken Wood

Mr. Wood requested to address Sub-committee and make the following requests:

1. That the applicant information from tenants in 230 Britannia carry over for their rental applications to 200 Britannia, and that staff be directed to work with tenants in completing the rental application.
2. That rent be frozen to the rate currently being paid by tenants at Britannia due to inflation and there being a need to assist renters which rising costs.

Sub-committee Discussion: Mr. Wood was not in attendance at the meeting to make his delegation.

4. Report of the Manager of Ontario Works

4.1 Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth and Ontario Works Service Agreement (SOC23-013)

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services to deliver the Ontario Works Service Agreement as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- the City having formed a close relationship over the years with Choices for Change;
- the recent merger of Choices for Change with Resilience Huron Perth Mental Health Services to form the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services;
- the history of services provided by Choices for Change to Ontario Works clients;
- the most recent agreement with Choices for Change having ended on December 31, 2022, and staff are looking to enhance the agreement to meet current needs of the community; and
- services provided including the previously offered one on one case management supports, as well as drop-in support offered at 82 Erie Street and group based supports.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services to deliver the Ontario Works Service Agreement as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Carried

4.2 One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker (SOC23-014)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled “One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker” (SOC23-014) be received for information.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- the April 1, 2023, launch of the new Employment Services Transformation model;
- the challenges being experienced due to the time required to complete the new Common Assessment and Action Plan requirements, which are taking up to three times longer to complete than previous requirements;
- the stringent Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and metrics staff are required to meet, as well as challenges still being felt as a result of the move to centralized intake;
- there being an opportunity to apply for one-time funding, which the Service Manager was successful in obtaining;
- the funding being a 50% cost share, with the City's share coming from a staffing vacancy gap so there are no additional costs to the City.

A question and answer period took place between the Director of Social Services and Sub-committee as follows:

- the position will be filled through regular hiring practices;
- the posting taking 1-3 months to fill depending on the applicants;
- as the funding is one-time only, the position will be treated as temporary; and
- should caseloads continue to rise, staff would make a business case to extend this position or look at additional positions dependent on the administrative load.

Motion by Councillor Biehn

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the report titled “One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker” (SOC23-014) be received for information.

Carried

4.3 Service Agreement between Festival Hydro Inc. – Low Income Energy Assistance Program [LEAP] (SOC23-015)

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for the Social Services Department to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Manager of Ontario Works provided an overview of the management report. Highlights of the overview included:

- the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) being an existing program offered by the Ontario Energy Board;
- the Social Services Department operating the program on behalf of Festival Hydro since 2020;
- the purpose of the program being to offer assistance with electricity bill arrears;
- it making sense to offer this program in tandem as Social Services already offers rent stability options;
- it was noted that the funding amount received in 2022 was higher than previous years as funding received in 2021 was not able to be fully spent and the funds can be carried into the next year;
- the City not keeping the allowable administrative costs, as staff are able to deliver the program within their current portfolio; and
- those administrative costs being funneled back into the program to assist as many customers as possible.

It was asked how applications are completed and whether Festival Hydro promotes the program. The Manager advised that applications are completed in person at 82 Erie Street and that Festival Hydro makes recommendations to the program when arrears notices are sent and when customers call in to the customer service line.

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for the Social Services Department to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Carried

5. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Social Services Sub-committee meeting is May 9, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Social Services Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:40 P.M.



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 12, 2023
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
 Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Report#: SOC23-013
Attachments: None

Title: Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth and Ontario Works Service Agreement

Objective: To consider approval for The Corporation of the City of Stratford to enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services (CMHA HP), to deliver a case management and group supports program to participants involved with the Social Services Department, as noted in the agreement and to request delegated authority for the Director of Social Services or Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with CMHA HP until 2028.

Background: Effective January 1, 2023, Resilience Huron Perth Mental Health Services and Choices for Change: Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselling Centre (CFC) merged under the banner of the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services. Historically, the Ontario Works Division has maintained a close relationship with Choices for Change as they were the provider for the Addictions Services Initiative (ASI) program until the Ministry ended the pilot in 2019. After that program ceased, the Ontario Works Division and CFC maintained an ongoing service agreement to provide front-of-line counselling and support services to Ontario Works recipients, in tandem with an Ontario Works caseworker. This agreement ended on December 31, 2022, and requires a comprehensive update to reflect the changing landscape of mental health and addictions in Stratford, St Marys, and Perth County.

This agreement represents an enhanced relationship between the Social Services Department and CMHA HP to deliver case management supports through various modalities such as 1:1 appointment-based work, drop-in supports at the Ontario Works office and both closed and open groups specifically catered to recipients of Ontario Works.

Analysis: The goal of this service agreement is to offer both group and 1:1 appointment-based and drop-in support options for individuals in receipt, or connected to, Ontario Works who identify service needs or life stability goals related to their mental health and/or addiction-related concerns. Based on the Stability Supports Model, these services will support mental health and wellness and provide tools and resources to manage or make changes to identified substance use concerns and behavioural addictions. By partnering to provide services, clients will become engaged with supports in their community and can receive wrap-around support for other co-occurring experiences for which they are seeking support. The primary focus of this service agreement is to better outcomes for clients in receipt of Ontario Works in the Stability Supports goals of Health and Community Support.

This Program is intended for individuals and families who are:

- In receipt of Ontario Works, and
- Facing barriers to employment and life stability due to their mental health and/or addictions.

The modalities utilized will include:

1:1 and Drop-in Support

Both counselling and case management staff at CMHA HP will staff this support option. Counsellors will be available to offer single session counselling support related to both behavioural and substance use concerns and case managers will offer support related to mental health concerns, including substance use disorder. Clients may book appointments for these times but are not required to do so. The goal of offering support within the Ontario Works offices at a recurring time is to provide support to those who otherwise may identify difficulty in attending regularly scheduled appointments.

Group-based Support

Group support shall include both open and closed options, designed to provide education, support, practical tools, and a supportive environment where Ontario Works clients can thrive and work toward greater employability and life stability.

Through this agreement, Ontario Works recipients will now be able to receive mental health counselling through Family Services Perth-Huron while also receiving case management support and addictions counselling from CMHA HP. These agreements, in conjunction with the work being done by Social Services staff, will enhance the wrap-around supports available to individuals in our community with the goal of improving overall life stability, employability and general wellness.

As CMHA HP is uniquely positioned as the only agency in the catchment area capable of providing these services, the City's Procurement Policy, section 37 permits sole-source approvals and is appropriate for this agreement.

The agreement with CMHA HP and corresponding program delivery is provided through the Ontario Works Employment Supports portfolio, and is 100% funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. The funding requested has increased to \$40,000 per year, from \$27,500, for services rendered and corresponds with a significant increase to the number of services being offered as the program now goes beyond just addictions counselling to include mental health case management, drop-in support at 82 Erie Street and group sessions.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The program expenses and 100% of the funding are administered by the Ontario Works division, Employment Supports. The cost of the program is \$40,000, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. This expense has been budgeted as part of both the municipal and Provincial budgeting process.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

This program has been budgeted on an ongoing basis for the duration of the contract (until 2028, subject to annual renewals). The cost of the program is expected to remain at \$40,000, which is fully funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. If there are changes to the amount requested or there are concerns of contractual performance, the City has the ability to terminate the agreement.

As this program is 100% Provincially funded through the Ontario Works division, there is no anticipated impact on future year municipal operating budgets. The contract is subject to the City's budget approval and the Provincial funding, on an annual basis.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with the Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services to deliver the Ontario Works Service Agreement as detailed in the agreement for 2023;

THAT the Mayor and Clerk, or their respective delegates, be authorized to execute the agreement with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services on behalf of the municipal corporation;

AND THAT City Council delegates its signing authority to the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to execute future renewal agreements with Canadian Mental Health Association Huron-Perth Addictions and Mental Health Services until 2028, subject to satisfactory contract performance or any amendments to funding identified by the City.

Prepared by:	Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Recommended by:	Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
	Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 12, 2023
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Report#: SOC23-014
Attachments: None

Title: One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker

Objective: To provide an update to Council regarding a successful one-time funding request from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).

Background: As part of the 2023 MCCSS Ontario Works budget package released on January 30, 2023, there was an opportunity for one-time funding requests to be submitted for review with a due date of February 10, 2023. The City of Stratford Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) identified a need within the Ontario Works Division for additional caseworker support as a result of the upcoming Employment Services Transformation, as well as challenges still being felt as a result of centralized intake.

The Employment Services Transformation (EST) transition planning is currently underway with a launch date of April 1, 2023. As a Phase 1 EST site, the transition to EST will create workload challenges as we work through process changes, staffing re-allocations (where necessary), an increased focus on Common Assessment (CA) and Action Plans (AP), and the goals and KPIs set in our client transition plan. Based on the integrated case management model being co-designed with the Service System Manager (SSM), it is expected that caseworker time spent working with Employment Ontario (EO) providers will also increase significantly as more intensive, wrap-around case management supports are provided in conjunction with our SSM and EO partners.

Analysis: Presently, a focus on completing the common assessment (CA) and action plans (AP) is taking time away from other activities that case workers are required to complete. An additional caseworker, on a short-term basis, will allow the Ontario Works department to turn our attention to EST fully and make a more successful transition to the new case management model, including dedicating more time to completing CA and APs with ongoing clients and ensuring Employment Ontario referrals are sustained and are of a high quality.

An additional caseworker will allow our office to have the ability to be more likely to successfully achieve the outcomes being targeted as a Phase 1 EST site, with regard to the percentage of caseload who exit to employment. Working closely with the SSM as we co-design the Integrated Case Management (ICM) model, we also understand there will be added pressures on OW caseworkers to be more active in case conferences, regularly check in with clients who are both working with EO as well as those who are not, and provide wrap-around supports in conjunction with EO to ensure stability is maintained while clients work through employment referrals. An additional caseworker will not only help support operations within the office, they will also help in sustaining increased referrals to our EO partners and allow us to have an increased ability to manage the forthcoming ICM model.

The focus of this request was to increase our achievement of the outcomes detailed in our Ministry business plan and to ensure we are delivering a high level of service to an increasing caseload with complex needs.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

Due to a six-month caseworker vacancy, we are able to afford the \$46,500 cost-shared portion of this position without increasing the Ontario Works wages within the 2023 budget. The Province of Ontario's portion of the position will be \$46,500, which is being received as a one-time grant. Therefore, there is no anticipated impact to the tax levy because of this position.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There is no anticipated impact to the 2024 operating budget as the unspent portion of the caseworker wage approved in 2023 will be deferred into 2024 and used to fund the position until it reaches its 12-month maximum timeframe.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Widening our Economic Opportunities

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the report titled "One-Time Funding – Additional Ontario Works Caseworker" (SOC23-014) be received for information.

Prepared by:

Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works

Recommended by:

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer



MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: April 12, 2023
To: Social Services Sub-committee
From: Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works
 Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services
Report#: SOC23-015
Attachments: None

Title: Service Agreement between Festival Hydro Inc. – Low Income Energy Assistance Program [LEAP]

Objective: To consider entering into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026, and authorizing the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer to sign the agreement.

Background: The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) created the LEAP Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) program to provide emergency relief to eligible low-income customers who may be having trouble paying current arrears. These payments are applied to gas and electricity bill payments only and are not applicable to other forms of utilities. The Social Services Department has acted as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the LEAP EFA program, on behalf of Festival Hydro, for electricity bill arrears since May 1, 2020. The current agreement expires on April 30, 2023, therefore requiring a renewal of the agreement at this time. The program operates, generally, from the time the Hydro Cut-off Moratorium expires, which is normally May 1 of any given year, and runs until the funds are depleted.

Analysis: The LEAP EFA program provides grants to low-income customers of Festival Hydro and sub-metering providers operating within Festival Hydro's service area. The Social Services Department will continue to act as both the lead agency and intake agency. As the lead agency, the Department will continue to be responsible for tracking program funds, statistics related to applicants of the program, managing customer files, and providing program oversight. The Department will continue to be responsible for performing intake functions such as screening applicants, processing applications, ensuring all documents are completed, communicating eligibility decisions, and informing Festival Hydro of eligibility decisions. The Department will also continue to be responsible for making weekly payments to Festival Hydro for the total funds approved,

ensuring timely service delivery for residents to prevent hardship or utility disconnection.

Each year, Festival Hydro will provide the total funding allocation available through the LEAP EFA program, which is increased annually based on inflationary amounts. Of the total funding allotment, 15% can be retained for administrative costs. Due to our experience over the past three years delivering this program, as well as the similarity of the LEAP EFA program and Housing Stability Benefit programs offered by the Department, it is feasible for this program to continue being operated within the current staffing complement available. This will allow the attributable administrative costs to be included in the funding available to applicants of the program therefore maximizing the assistance available.

The program is based on a first-come, first-serve basis and is delivered until the allotted funds are exhausted. If additional funds are made available for the LEAP program, Festival Hydro and the Social Services Department shall negotiate in good faith a new agreement, or amended agreement, wherein the Department will agree to deliver such funds.

The historical funding amounts that have been dispersed to residents are as follows:

2020-\$13,064.76

2021-\$9,399.20

2022-\$29,846.97

Please note that funds not utilized in a specific year are able to be carried forward into the next calendar year and are recorded as revenues/expenditures when received/disbursed.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

The total funding allocation for the program is received as revenue from Festival Hydro and then issued as social assistance payments, until the funding is expired. Due to the fact the Social Services Department acts as a flow-through of these funds, there is no impact on the tax levy. There is no budgetary increase as a result of delivering this program, as the current staffing complement is able to manage the delivery of the LEAP EFA program.

The City has received a total of \$29,550 for 2023 to be dispersed to residents after May 1.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

There is no impact on future year operating budgets anticipated at this time, as the current staffing complement approved within the allocated budget is able to manage the delivery of this program.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Widening our Economic Opportunities

Strengthening Stratford's economy by developing, attracting and retaining a diversity of businesses and talent.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

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Staff Recommendation: THAT The Corporation of the City of Stratford enter into an agreement with Festival Hydro Inc. for the Social Services Department to act as the lead agency and intake agency for the delivery of the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) commencing May 1, 2023, and expiring on April 30, 2026;

AND THAT the Director of Social Services or the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the Corporation.

Prepared by:

Alex Burgess, Manager of Ontario Works

Recommended by:

Kim McElroy, Director of Social Services

Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer