

## **Report to Committee of the Whole**

**Date:** 2/10/2025  
**From:** Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works  
**Re:** Flower Baskets for 2025 Season

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive for information the report regarding the seasonal hanging baskets for 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT the Committee directs staff to bring the request for the proposed flower baskets and planters as outlined in this report to the February 24th Regular Council Meeting and recommend Council approval of the proposal for 2025 as presented.

### **BACKGROUND**

In keeping with the beatification of the Village of Merrickville, there are various hanging baskets, flower barrels, and flower planters placed and maintained throughout the Village annually.

This service is typically sourced through Green Acres Greenhouses and Landscaping, with positive results in past years as well as the most recent 2024 season. It is staff understanding the Council would accept moving forward using Green Acres for the 2025 season.

A recent Flagpole Project will have 12 new poles situated throughout the Village, that are planned to contain 2 hanging baskets per pole.

For added clarity and context:

- Hanging Baskets are hung on various Hydro poles, existing wood poles in the downtown core, and are expected to be hung on the new 12 flag poles.
- Planter Boxes are stationary throughout the downtown core at the recycling bins.
- Flower Barrels are placed throughout the Village, however some have impeded pedestrian traffic.

### **ANALYSIS**

In an attempt to calculate the amount of baskets, planters, and barrels for the 2025 season while keeping within the 2025 budget of \$8,500, the below table is a comparison to the 2024 season and presented as an option for Council's consideration.

<b>2024 Season</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hanging Baskets	\$37.50	43	\$1,612.50
Planters (at recycling bins)	\$21.50	4	\$86.00
Flower Barrels	\$37.50	25	\$937.50
Fuel Surcharge	\$763.10	1	\$763.10
water	\$4,995.00	1	\$4,995.00
Sub-Total			\$8,394.10
Non-Recoverable HST			\$147.74
<b>Total Cost to Village</b>			<b>\$8,541.84</b>
<b>2025 Season</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
Hanging Baskets	\$41.50	20	\$830.00
Additional Hanging Baskets at New Poles	\$41.50	24	\$996.00
Planters (at recycling bins)	\$25.50	4	\$102.00
Flower Barrels	\$41.50	0	\$0.00
Fuel Surcharge	\$851.90	1	\$851.90
water	\$5,595.00	1	\$5,595.00
Sub-Total			\$8,374.90
Non-Recoverable HST			\$147.40
<b>Total Cost to Village</b>			<b>\$8,522.30</b>
<b>2025 Budget</b>			<b>\$8,500.00</b>

In summary, the 4 stationary planter boxes would remain, the flower barrels would be removed from the scope, 24 new hanging baskets would be hung from the new flag poles, however 23 hanging baskets would need to be removed from the original seasonal scope.

In essence the total amount of hanging baskets would remain the same from 2024, but the locations would change.

#### BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As noted, the 2025 Budget allocated \$8,500 toward flower baskets, whereas the suggestion above alters the type and amount of planters throughout the Village.

Should Council choose to utilize funds from Economic Development, staff can investigate the feasibility with the original amount of 43 hanging baskets, the 24 additional hanging baskets, the 4 planter boxes, and various barrels (as to reduce the location of barrels that have had negative effects on pedestrian traffic in the past).

## CONCLUSION

Options are presented to Council for consideration, however the suggested recommendation is to proceed with the following flowers throughout the Village:

- 4 stationary planter boxes
- 44 hanging baskets (inclusive to 24 on the new flag poles)
- 0 barrel planters

Staff also recommend that a tender be issued for 2026 for the 'Flower Baskets', in an attempt to obtain various competitive quotes, with an inclusion of provisional items for flower baskets and/or flower barrels in Jasper and Easton's Corners, for Council's consideration in 2026.

## ATTACHMENTS

N/A

Submitted by:

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Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works

Approved by:

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Darlene Plumley, CAO