

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

**Date:** 4/13/2026  
**From:** Shelley Mackenzie, Administrative Clerk, Public Works/Building  
**Re:** Grant Funding Updates

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive this report for information.

### **BACKGROUND**

Grant funding plays a vital role in supporting improvements throughout the Village of Merrickville-Wolford. Staff actively research and pursue funding opportunities to advance community projects, infrastructure upgrades, and service enhancements. This report provides an overview of the grant opportunities that staff have investigated, and the applications submitted for consideration to date.

### **ANALYSIS**

Between 1980 and 1990, significant federal and provincial spending reductions created a substantial infrastructure gap, increasing municipal dependence on government grants. The additional financial responsibilities for municipalities further amplified the need for provincial funding to remain revenue neutral. With limited revenue sources, primarily taxation, user fees, and government grants, municipalities must pursue external funding to support essential projects and services. Staff continue to actively research and apply for grant opportunities to enhance local infrastructure, improve services, increase resident satisfaction, and promote tourism to strengthen the local economy.

In the last several years the world has seen a sharp increase in costs. These rising infrastructure costs place significant pressure on smaller municipalities, where limited commercial growth means a greater financial burden on local ratepayers. The Covid-19 pandemic further intensified the need for provincial and federal support to address municipal funding shortfalls. In recent years, increased provincial downloading has transferred additional responsibilities—such as social housing, social services, public health, policing, emergency services, infrastructure maintenance, and in some cases transit—to municipalities. As a result, many Ontario municipalities are now experiencing substantial service realignment and heightened fiscal challenges.

With heightened competition for grant funding from other municipalities, Village staff are constantly looking for opportunities to apply for much needed funding. The Village of Merrickville-Wolford benefits from strong support and highly valuable and productive relationships from local user groups and organizations that contribute to our grant initiatives. Staff regularly seek letters of support from these partners and consistently receive timely and positive responses, which strengthen our funding applications.

**BUDGET/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on the budget.

**OTHERS CONSULTED**

Jenny McCleery, Administrative Assistant

Kirsten Rahm, Treasurer

Chad Kean, Manager of Public Works

Brad Cole, Fire Chief

Darlene Plumley, CAO

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attached is an outline of the recent grant applications.

Submitted by:

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Shelley Mackenzie, Administrative Clerk  
Jenny McCleery, Administrative Assistant

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Plumley, CAO

## Grant Applications and Status Tracking

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Wellington Street Grant - Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program | Successful            |
| All Risk Assessment  | Unsuccessful          |
| Safe and Active School Routes Program - FCM/GMF                    | Researched            |
| EASE Grant   | Unsuccessful          |
| Active Transportation  | Researched            |
| Ontario Pothole Grant  | Successful            |
| Municipal Risk Grant   | Unsuccessful          |
| Fire Protection Grant 2024-25                                      | Successful            |
| Medallion Group Insurance – Fire Prevention Week                   | Unsuccessful          |
| Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers Association             | Successful            |
| 2025 Safe Communities – Project Zero – Enbridge                    | Unsuccessful          |
| 2025 Safe Communities- Project Assist-Enbridge                     | Unsuccessful          |
| Community Emergency Preparedness 2025-26                           | Submitted             |
| Fire Protection Grant 2025-2026                                    | Successful            |
| 2026 - Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant               | Submitted             |
| Ontario Trillium Foundation – Capital 2026                         | Submitted             |
| Rural Ontario Development Program                                  | Submitted             |
| FCM Program  | Researched            |
| COVID Funding Grant  | Successful            |
| Canada Day Grant   | Successful            |
| Easton's Corners Pavilion (CCRF)                                   | Successful            |
| Main St Grant  | Successful            |
| Community Emergency Preparedness Grant                             | Unsuccessful          |
| FCM Asset Management Grant   | Successful            |
| RED Grant  | Successful            |
| Source Protection Grant  | Successful            |
| Service Delivery Review Grant (MMP intake 3 SDR)                   | Successful            |
| Street (Pole) Grant  | Successful            |
| YCW Grant  | Successful            |
| OCIF Top Up Grant  | Successful            |
| 2026 Ontario Fire College Mobile Live Fire Training Unit           | Unsuccessful          |
| Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund                                 | Currently Researching |
| Enhancing Access to Spaces for Everyone (EASE)                     | Currently Researching |
| Ontario Fire College Mobile Live Fire Training Unit                | Unsuccessful          |
| RBC – Rick Hansen Barrier Buster Grant                             | Submitted             |