

COUNCILLOR BUDGETS

Recommendation

Councillor Sandra Racco recommends:

- 1) That the methodology used to develop the annual budget allocations for Members of Council be reviewed when the 2006 population information, based on the new Ward boundaries, is available;
- 2) That the results of that review be factored into the 2007 budget; and
- 3) That in the interim the 2006 budget for the Ward 4 Councillor be adjusted to equate to the 2006 Ward 2 Councillor budget on a per capita basis.

Economic Impact

No economic impact. It would be an internal reallocation of funds.

Purpose

The purpose is to correct the significant discrepancy between the discretionary budgets for the Ward 2 Councillor (population 53,645) and the Ward 4 Councillor (51,017 population), even though the population in each Ward is approximately the same.

Background - Analysis and Options

The 2006 budgets for Members of Council were developed by applying a formula. The formula was used to develop the discretionary portion of the budget. The formula relates the actual population in a Ward to the average Ward population. When applied over time formulas can distort results away from what was originally intended. For example a Ward with a population less than the average Ward population, as determined under the formula, would not see an increase in the discretionary budget, even though the population in the Ward increased annually.

The difference in the Ward 2 and the Ward 4 budgets is an example of this distortion. The population used to develop the Ward 2 budget was 53,645 and the population used to develop the Ward 4 budget was 51,017. The population difference is 2,628 or 5%. However the discretionary budget for Ward 2 is \$24,696 compared to \$13,948 for Ward 4. A difference of \$10,748 or 77%.

It is recognized that the population by Ward will change for 2007 based on the new Ward boundaries. As a result the relationship of the Ward budgets to each other will change.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2007

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council and the necessary resources have been allocated and approved.

Conclusion

Since the change in Ward boundaries will impact 2007 it is recommended that the methodology used to develop budgets for Members of Council be reviewed and the results reflected in the 2007 budget. However, as an interim measure to correct the significant disparity between Ward 2 and Ward 4, the 2006 Ward 4 budget be adjusted to equate to the 2006 Ward 2 budget on a per capita basis. The adjustment is \$9,520 and would be funded through an internal re-allocation from Corporate Contingencies.

Attachments

None

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Sandra Racco, Ward 4