



County Council

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Submitted by: Cindy Howard, General Manager Finance and Community Services, County Treasurer and Deputy CAO, Durk Vanderwerff, Director of Planning and Cara Finn, Director of Economic Development

SUBJECT: Request for Proposals for Middlesex County Attainable Housing Review

BACKGROUND:

The Ontario government reaffirmed its commitment to work in partnership with municipalities to strengthen communities and support vital public services during the virtual 2021 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference.

Premier Doug Ford, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Steve Clark and Ministers, Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Assistants held virtual meetings with hundreds of municipal officials. They discussed key issues including housing affordability, broadband expansion, and how the province will continue to support municipalities and keep communities safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

At the last AMO Conference, Municipal Affairs and Housing Minister Steve Clark announced a third intake of the Municipal Modernization Program (MMP). Municipalities can benefit from this provincial funding for digital modernization and other projects that will help deliver services more efficiently.

Intake 3 of the Municipal Modernization Program follows the same format as the previous two intakes and is split between implementation and third-party review streams. As part of Intake 3, Middlesex County submitted applications for four projects. Two projects for the implementation stream and two projects for the review stream.

Middlesex County Community Services, Economic Development and Planning departments submitted a third-party review stream application regarding a Middlesex County Attainable Housing Review. On January 25, 2022, Warden Warwick received notice from Minister Clark that this project was funded. The County received up to \$96,672 for an independent third-party review.

The objective of the Project is to examine the Housing Continuum from Emergency Shelter, Short- Term Supportive Housing, Long-term Supportive Housing, Subsidized Rental Housing, Rental Housing and Ownership Housing and identify gaps in the provision of housing and a corresponding municipal strategy. The Project will provide an overview of the current market conditions and accommodation needs across the entire housing spectrum in the County and examine the relationships to adjacent jurisdictions including the City of London. It will make recommendations that support market and nonmarket housing that meets the needs of current and future residents. The Project will also summarize in plain language the housing issues and options for the public so that they can gain access to information, services and supports related to housing.

Contract CS-2022-03 for Attainable Housing Review Consulting Services was posted on the Bids & Tender website with tenders accepted until 12 noon, Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

ANALYSIS:

The County received one bid by the deadline that met the requirements of the RFP. The evaluation committee reviewed the submission from Vink Consulting Inc. and determined that it met or exceeded the mandatory and rated requirements including experience of the firm, minimum qualifications, the pricing model and the overall strength and quality of the proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The total cost of bid submitted by Vink Consulting Inc. was for an amount of \$89,819 before taxes.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council accept the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to award RFP No. CS-2022-03 to Vink Consulting Inc., and that the General Manager Finance and Community Services be authorized to negotiate and execute an agreement between Vink Consulting Inc. and the County of Middlesex for the preparation of an Attainable Housing Review at a cost of \$89,819 before taxes.