

DATE: September 28, 2023

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities & Events

SUBJECT: CN Centre Audio Renewal

ATTACHMENT(S): None

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council APPROVES Project # 3394 CN Centre Audio System Renewal be added to the 2023-2027 Financial Plan with a budget of \$950,000 in the 2023 year, funded from the Northern Capital and Planning Reserve fund as detailed in the report dated September 28, 2023 from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events titled "CN Centre Audio Renewal"

PURPOSE:

This report seeks Council approval to amend the 2023 – 2027 Capital Plan to fund up to \$950,000 from the Northern Capital and Planning Reserve fund for the replacement and renewal of the obsolete CN Centre Audio system to ensure continued service provision to the multiple users that require access to its reliable use.

BACKGROUND:

CN Centre is the City of Prince George's showcase venue.

In 2019, as part of the Civic Facilities Renewal Strategy, an assessment was completed of the CN Centre audio equipment. The assessment identified that most of the equipment, dating back to late 90's had exceeded both its technical lifetime and its reliable service lifetime. The existing systems were at high risk of a system wide failure with little or no access to spare parts or replacement pieces. Covid halted events at the CN Centre for 2 years, and as a result extended its limited life, albeit briefly. With entertainment and sporting events returning to CN Centre, the City is now operating at full capacity once again. Working in conjunction with our tenants, user groups and event promoters, the City has an obligation to provide a sports and entertainment facility to suit the needs of these groups.

The City is at a stage, where repairs and maintenance will no longer prevent imminent failure. Additionally, the systems are outdated and do not offer the quality expected in similar arenas that see a wide range of users including the WHL. This project is currently in the 2023-2027 unfunded Capital Plan, for \$1,175,000. Due to the required timelines and urgency for replacement, along with recent consultations to confirm the cost, administration is seeking approval to amend the capital plan as follows:

#3394 CN Centre Audio System Renewal

The CN Center audio system has exceeded its technical and reliable service lifespan and is a required component for facility use and users. This is inclusive of the replacement of the headend and amplifier, low end replacement (sub-woofers) and loud speakers.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
<u>Northern Capital and Planning Reserve</u>	<u>950</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
950,000 Project Totals:	950	0	0	0	0

The audio equipment and system replacement will enable the Prince George Cougars and the City to sell tickets to increase revenues, which increases the revenue for the City and other CN Centre partners. Administration have included only those items that are critical to ensure lifetime and serviceability within the proposed project scope and budget.

Administration has worked closely with the contracted AV consultant, and within our partnership with the various user groups to determine the required replacements; of the components: audio equipment, controls, and networks to proceed with a construction design and budget. Approval of these next steps will permit Administration to move forward with a tender for Q4 2023 in order to complete the timely installation during the summer of 2024.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Renewal of the CN Centre audio equipment and sound system aligns with Council's priority and goals of enhancing Prince George's attractiveness to visitors and locals, especially for entertainment, meetings and sporting events with a supportive and engaged community.

Council Priorities 2023-2024:

- Grow the City...that reflect the integration of capital planning, asset management, infrastructure planning...and associated financial commitments.
- Focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities, as well as build and maintain the relationships necessary to ensure ... responsive service delivery...to meet the diverse needs of all residents.
- Market Prince George as a place to invest, live and visit
 - Corporate workplan priority: Promote presence and use of local assets and amenities that aligns with growth goals

This report aligns with the Council approved direction set out in the [Organizational Capital Project Management Policy, 2021](#) where *the benefits of following this policy include better capital project scope, cost, schedule and quality certainty, improved stakeholder relations, enhanced reputation and trust, and helping the City achieve its vision and goals.*

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The budget to replace and renew the CN Centre Audio equipment in 2023 is \$950,000 and the proposed funding source is Northern Capital and Planning Reserve fund.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

To ensure the continued economic viability of CN Centre and multiple user requirements to have this reliable system in place, including our continued partnership with the Prince George Cougars, budget approval for the replacement of the sound system is required to be addressed for this fiscal year.

Administration request that Council approve amending the existing 2023-2027 financial plan to include the renewal of CN Centre's Audio system in 2023 for up to \$950,000, with proposed funding source to come from the Northern Capital and Planning Reserve Fund.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities and Events

PREPARED BY: Tanja Puhmann, Engineering Technologist, Project Delivery

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: [2023/10/16]