



Warming trailers secured following additional funding approval by Wetaskiwin City Council

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – Warming trailers are on their way to Wetaskiwin following City Council’s unanimous approval of an additional \$35,000—funded from the City’s contingency reserve—at a special Council meeting on November 12 to secure the lease of the trailers for the temporary warming shelter.

Administration had identified a trailer encampment solution that would meet the operational requirements of a temporary warming shelter, however, this proposed solution cost \$185,000 – which is \$35,000 more than the \$150,000 previously approved by City Council in October. The \$150,000 committed by City Council will be reimbursed by the Rural Development Network as part of their Reach Homes Federal Funding grant.

“This additional funding allowed us to procure a trailer solution to provide emergency shelter to our vulnerable population throughout the winter,” stated Paul Edginton, General Manager of Community and Protective Services. “We anticipate that the trailers will be operational by the end of the month.”

The trailers are expected to arrive in Wetaskiwin by November 19, 2021, however, the actual opening and operation of the emergency warming shelter is **tentatively scheduled** for November 29, 2021. The temporary warming shelter will be located at 37A Avenue along the road allowance.

“These warming shelters are long overdue and it’s unfortunate that we had to wait for funding,” stated Mayor Tyler Gandam. “The City of Wetaskiwin is committed to finding solutions for those experiencing homelessness and it is imperative we continue to get support from the agencies and orders of government that we have partnered with.”

Administration is currently aware of a draft agreement between the Government of Alberta and a proposed shelter operator that would provide operational funding to keep the temporary warming shelter running until the end of March 2022.

City Administration will continue to pursue funding related to this project and endeavors to obtain additional grant funds – or funding from other sources – to minimize the overall fiscal impact to the municipality.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.





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