
To: Mayor and Council
From: Paul Gipps, CAO

Meeting Date: March 3, 2026
Meeting Type: Regular Council Meeting

Prepared by: Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist
Department: Finance & Administration

Title: Grant Application - Local Government Development Approvals Program
Description: Application for LGDAP funding to advance development approvals process improvements.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT an application to the Local Government Development Approvals Program for up to \$200,000, be supported; AND THAT staff be authorized to apply for, receive and manage the grant funding on behalf of the District of Lake Country; AND THAT if successful, the 2026-2030 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt and expenditure of the grant funds.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2026 Local Government Development Approvals Program (LGDAP), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), provides up to \$200,000 in grant funding per local government to support improvements to development approval processes, bylaws, and planning practices, covering up to 100% of eligible costs. The District previously secured 2024 LGDAP funding, which identified efficiencies and established a roadmap for process improvements. Staff are seeking Council direction to apply for up to \$200,000 under the 2026 intake to advance the next phase of development approvals process improvements, to strengthen the District's approvals framework, enhance service delivery, and support sustainable growth.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Local Government Program Services – 2026 Local Government Development Approvals Program (LGDAP), administered by the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), provides funding to support local governments in strengthening development approval processes, improving planning practices, and advancing community resilience through policy and regulatory enhancements. The Ministry of Housing and Municipal Affairs has provided funding for this program. The 2026 Program provides funding to assist local governments in undertaking projects that modernize development approval systems, enhance internal capacity, and align local regulations with provincial priorities. Under the 2026 LGDAP intake, eligible local governments may apply for up to \$200,000 in grant funding. The program can contribute up to 100% of eligible project costs. Funding is intended to support projects that improve development approvals processes, update bylaws and policies, strengthen interdepartmental coordination, and enhance transparency, efficiency, and predictability for applicants and the public.

The District successfully secured funding through the 2024 Local Government Development Approvals Program. With this funding, the District established a detailed review and understanding of current development approval processes, identified opportunities to improve efficiency, and delivered actionable recommendations and a roadmap for future updates, supporting more consistent and timely approvals in Lake Country. Staff are seeking Council direction to proceed with an application to the 2026 LGDAP for up to \$200,000 in funding to build on the previous project by advancing targeted initiatives aimed at streamlining development approvals, improving process efficiency, and supporting more consistent and timely service delivery.

This funding, if received, would focus on identifying opportunities that would improve the approval process related to the use of modern methods of construction (i.e. offsite construction, prefabricated construction, and modular construction, etc.), and standardized housing designs. This may include:

- a) Reviewing community plans, zoning, and development processes to support the use of modern methods of construction;
- b) Reviewing the zoning bylaw and providing recommendations to reduce the need for commonly requested variances and incorporate the use of standardized housing design catalogues; and
- c) Develop development approvals guidance, for staff and applicants, for the use of standardized designs and modern methods of construction (including updates to existing guidelines, policies, procedures and bylaws).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None Budget Previously Approved Other (see below)

If approved, the project will be 100% funded through the LGDAP grant, with no direct impact to the District's budget. Should the application be unsuccessful, an update to the Zoning Bylaw and other supporting documents would continue within existing departmental budgets and staff resources.

COMMUNICATION

This application was referred to internal departments.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. THAT the District does not make an application to the Local Government Development Approvals Program.

Respectfully Submitted.

Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Local Government Development Approvals - Grant Application.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 25, 2026

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Jeremy Frick, Director of Development Approvals - Feb 24, 2026 - 10:53 AM

Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Feb 25, 2026 - 9:12 AM

Task assigned to Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services was completed by assistant Makayla Ablitt, Manager of Corporate Administration - Feb 25, 2026 - 10:07 AM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 25, 2026 - 11:05 AM

Task assigned to Makayla Ablitt, Manager of Corporate Administration was completed by assistant Shara Glenn, Legislative and FOI Coordinator - Feb 25, 2026 - 12:34 PM