

COMMUNICATION 137033

Received from: Stacey Blair, Clerk
Addressed to: Committee of the Whole
Date: April 21, 2026
Topic: Appointment of Joint Compliance Audit Committee Members

BACKGROUND

The Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (the Act) requires that municipalities establish a Compliance Audit Committee to address concerns regarding election campaign financing for both candidates and registered third parties for each election. The first step, which is to approve by by-law, the Terms of Reference for the Joint Lanark County 2026 Election Compliance Audit Committee, has been completed by all municipalities within Lanark County, including the Town of Smiths Falls.

COMMENT

In response to a joint recruitment ad appearing in local papers and on the various municipal websites and social media pages, a total of three (3) applications were received.

In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Clerks are jointly recommending the appointment of the three (3) applicants. All applicants are shown to have valuable knowledge and experience from both professional and community perspectives.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Option 1 (Recommended) - Appoint the three (3) named Individuals by by-Law. To do otherwise would jeopardize the existence of the Committee as all partnering municipalities must agree to appoint the same individuals. It is stated in the Terms of Reference that the selection process will be based upon clearly understood and equitable criteria. All applicants satisfy the criteria and should therefore be appointed.

Option 2 – Continue to advertise for more applicants. This option has not been supported by any of the other municipalities within the County.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the appointments. The Act states that municipalities are responsible for the costs associated with the Compliance Audit Committee, including audit costs. In the event of an application, the affected municipality would be responsible for the associated costs, and the Clerk for Lanark County would serve as Committee Secretary in dealing with the specific application. Appointees would receive a stipend of \$150 per meeting with reimbursement of expenses associated with travel to be paid by the member municipality requiring the services of the Committee.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council appoint David Nusko, Jason Huang and Rhonda Whitmarsh to the Joint Lanark County Compliance Audit Committee for the term November 15, 2026, to November 14, 2030 to deal with applications from the 2026 Election and any by-elections during the next Council term.