

Municipality of East Ferris

Report to Council

Report No.: CAO-2025-02

Date: October 14, 2025

Originator: Jason H. Trottier, CAO/Treasurer

Subject: Review of Municipal Christmas Party Options

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council for the Corporation of the Municipality of East Ferris approves option #1, maintaining the current format for the annual Christmas party for 2025;

AND FURTHER THAT for 2026 and later years, Council approves option #2, department-based Christmas parties, to replace the current format.

BACKGROUND

At the regular Council meeting held on June 10, 2025, Council passed Resolution 2025-159:

THAT Council directs Staff to review options in lieu of a dance for the Municipal Staff and Volunteer Christmas Party;

AND FURTHER THAT information be brought forward to a future meeting of Council for discussion.

Traditionally, the format of the Christmas party is a catered dinner and a dance with music played by a DJ. Invitees include Council members, municipal and library staff, members of East Ferris Fire and Emergency Services, and members of municipal committees. Invitees are welcome to invite a spouse/partner. All costs of the party are covered by the municipality.

ANALYSIS/OPTIONS

Over the years, staff have expressed an interest in refreshing the format of the annual Christmas party. While it has been a long-standing tradition and is always appreciated, many feel that the event has followed the same structure for several years and no longer carries the same sense of excitement or connection it once did. Some have noted that with the large number of attendees, including volunteer committee members, the gathering feels less personal, and it can be difficult for staff to truly connect with one another.

Council has requested that staff review options in lieu of the current dinner and dance party format. There are many options available. The options presented in this report take into consideration the above-mentioned sentiments from staff.

Option #1: Christmas party with municipal and library staff, Council, and members of East Ferris Fire & Emergency Services.

This option would not include volunteers.

Option #2: Department-based Christmas parties – staff and members of East Ferris Fire & Emergency Services.

This option would provide a budget per department and allow staff within each department to determine how they would like to celebrate Christmas with co-workers. This option would see a decrease in cost as well as liability.

Option #3: Discontinue Christmas party.

Option #4: No change - status quo.

RECOMMENDATION

For 2025, it is recommended that we proceed with option #4 which is status quo.

In October 2026, there is a municipal election. This would be a fitting time to make changes to the annual Christmas party. The term for the current Council and committee members will cease shortly after the election. New committee members would not begin their term until January or February 2027.

For 2026, option #2 is being recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

For 2025, there is no increase in cost as the Christmas party format is status quo, and costs have been included in the annual budget. For 2026 and later years, costs will be included in the annual budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason H. Trottier, HBBA, MPA, CPA, CMA
CAO/Treasurer