To: City Manager  
From: Director of Public Works & Engineering – Ken Coombs  
Subject: SkyFest 2012 Business Plan Review

PURPOSE
To provide Council with the SkyFest Business Plan and staff recommendations as requested at the February 13th regular Council meeting. At that meeting Council approved, in principle, August 4th and 5th, 2012 for the SkyFest Airshow subject to a cap by the City of $3,000 contribution to the event for all costs (cash, in-kind), finalization of feasibility issues and receipt and approval by the City of the SkyFest Society Business Plan.

Attached is the Business Plan that was received on February 20th along with the Transportation Manager’s February 29th report and staff recommendations.

SUMMARY
- SkyFest has several requests of the City including:
  - Assist planning and coordination of emergency and other services and traffic control;
  - Assist with the promotion of the event;
  - Assist with the creation of a new spectator area;
  - Add an additional gate and access improvements/roadwork;
  - Level an area for spectator viewing, parking and camping on airside;
  - Supply aviation fuel for civilian performers at cost;
  - Request QCEDC assist with promotion of the event;
  - Consider entering into discussion to transfer hay lease rates from the current tenant to SkyFest; and
  - Risk sharing.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS
N/A

COUNCIL POLICY
There is no direct Council Policy relating to having an airshow.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE
N/A
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Preliminary cost estimates to carry out the requests of the SkyFest Society for the 2012 airshow — $19,000, which includes airport staff time dedicated to the event - $8,000, installing a gate and roadwork - $9,800 and lost fuel revenue - $1,200. If Council does not approve installing a gate and roadwork, the cost estimate is approximately $9,200. This assumes that the SkyFest Society will cover costs for emergency services.

BACKGROUND

In 2010 the Quesnel Flying Club and the SkyFest Society hosted a one-day air show. This was a successful event with 2,014 spectators attending the show. However, there was a budget shortfall and the City ended up covering $3,000 of fuel purchases made by performers. The SkyFest Society expects to draw 5,000 spectators to the 2012 air show. They have made several requests of the City for this year’s event as detailed in the attached Business Plan. The attached report from the Transportation Manager provides recommendations further to SkyFest’s requests. Since that report was drafted, staff has had several meetings with the SkyFest organizers. The outcome of the meetings include:

- SkyFest providing a more detailed budget.
- Meeting with the lease holder regarding leveling areas of the hay lease, allowing vehicle parking and camping in the leased area, and the possibility of giving up the lease to the SkyFest Society as per the Society’s request. The lease holder, Len Gamache, was not opposed to using the hay field for spectators seating, parking or camping. However, he will not allow leveling the field and he is not prepared to give up the hay lease. The lease comes up for renewal in 2017 and the current lease holder has the first right of refusal.
- City liability insurance provider indicates no coverage for parking and camping at airport, it appears they will provide coverage for the air show only. Clarification on this matter would be included in a written agreement with the SkyFest Society.

ATTACHMENTS

- SkyFest Business Plan 2012
- Report from Transportation Manager dated February 29, 2012

CONCURRENCE

This event has been discussed with the RCMP Staff Sergeant, Fire Chief, Director of Finance, City Manager and Transportation Manager.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options:

- Retain the $3,000 cap that has already been approved in principle or increase funding for the 2012 air show.
- Staff is recommending not to allow airside parking or camping. This recommendation is based on minimizing exposure to risk on the City’s part. Having said that, Council may wish to approve airside parking only or approve airside parking and camping.
- Staff is recommending not to install gates and a new road to airside. Council may wish to proceed with this work if airside parking and camping are permitted. The cost of the gates and adjusting the fence would be $2,300. The cost of extending the road onto airside would be approximately $7,500.
- Staff is recommending a $.15 per litre fuel discount for civilian performers. Council may wish to provide fuel at bare cost which would equal about $.32 per litre discount.
RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approves the following for the 2012 SkyFest Airshow:

- Not to add an access gate, use the electronic gate located very near this location.
- Not to level any ground as the requested area is leased out to another party.
- Have all spectators park vehicles on groundside; allow event organizers to access airside areas as required as long as they have valid AVOPs.
- Not to allow camping at the airport; advise the SkyFest Society to work with local campgrounds to provide off airport camping for this event. The RCMP, QVFD and senior staff agree that allowing camping on airside will compromise safety and security and could hamper the ability of the airport to stay operational for ongoing scheduled service, medi-vacs and fire-fighting operations. The City would be taking on a large liability because it would be impossible to guarantee the security of airport infrastructure when an unlimited number of persons and vehicles are given access to airside areas to park vehicles and camp.
- Provide a .15/L discount for civilian performers only. The cost of fuel from the supplier is a portion of the total cost of that fuel, maintaining the system is also an ongoing cost.
- Have staff, in cooperation with Ministry of Forests and the SkyFest Society, set up a contingency plan to provide MOF space for a tanker base; and
- Authorize staff to work with the SkyFest Society to draw up an agreement that details all aspects of the 2012 airshow, including the City’s expectations of the SkyFest Society, what the City will provide and allow, the total funding the City will contribute and who will be responsible for various improvements. This will set out the level of risk that both the City and the SkyFest Society are willing to take on.