

To: Mayor and Council

Submitted by: Jamie Ferguson, Manager of Active Living and Culture

Date: July 9, 2026

Subject: TVMCC Elevator

PROPOSAL

To provide staff with guidance concerning the possible installation of a fully accessible elevator at the Tantramar Veterans Memorial Civic Centre (TVMCC).

BACKGROUND

Each year, over 22,000 individuals visit the TVMCC to play a sport, attend an event, or to be a fan. In 2023, an Accessibility Audit was completed on the building by Ability NB, and since that time accessibility has become a key focus of the TVMCC. Several upgrades to improve accessibility in the building have already been completed, but through strong public advocacy the need for an elevator has been identified. The previous Council was supportive of the idea and passed a motion to go to public tender and collect pricing from contractors. Staff utilized Andrew Amos of Catalyst Consulting Engineers to develop a Request for Proposals for the elevator.

DISCUSSION

RFP #TAN-2026-4 closed May 7, 2-26 and was picked up by seven different companies or individuals, with two companies attending the mandatory site meeting and submitting proposals- Maxim Construction Inc. and Avant Garde Construction and Management. Catalyst Consulting Engineers evaluated the two submissions as follows:

Criteria	Available Points	Maxim	Avant Garde
Technical Approach / Concept Design	30	26.0	18.0
Team Experience	25	21.0	18.0
Schedule	15	11.0	12.0
Cost	30	30.0	28.7
TOTAL	100	88.0	76.7

Further to the scoring above, the price of the two submissions was as follows:

Avant Garde: \$936,390 plus HST

Maxim Construction : \$895,000 plus HST

It should be noted that the elevator was not included in the 2026 Capital Budget. Also, \$50,000 has been attained via Kraft Hockeyville to support accessibility upgrades at the TVMCC. Finally, the Director has applied to several other grant funders and foundations, but it has been difficult to identify specific funding programs for accessibility infrastructure.

Additional Information

Since the previous Committee of the Whole, some inquiries came to staff. Below are questions and answers:

- Why wasn't Ambulance New Brunswick consulted to determine need for a stretcher capable elevator?
 - o There is no immediate need for an elevator that would accommodate a stretcher. During a First Aid event, the caller to 911 would notify the first responders which entrance to approach, so a stretcher would not need to enter the elevator.
- Why was the RFP prepared with a request that precluded the option of installation of a LULA (Limited Use/Limited Application) Elevator?
 - There is no suitable location inside the building to install a lift or elevator. Additionally, the motion from Council read as follows:
 - 26-021 MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BARRY HICKS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MATT ESTABROOKS THAT COUNCIL DIRECT STAFF TO ISSUE A TENDER TO BE CALLED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2026 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN ELEVATOR AT THE TANTRAMAR VETERANS MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTRE. MOTION CARRIED.
 - Staff were following the motion as approved by Council to release a Tender for the installation of an elevator. Rather than a tender, a Request for Proposals was issued that allowed for some flexibility in the submission in terms of possible location. Both contractors reviewed that building components, layout and structure and submitted their proposals accordingly.
- Has there been any discussion about the concern that constructing a separate structure to house the elevator will cause issues with the function of the elevator due to settling of the new elevator structure?
 - o No concerns noted. We put our faith in the professionals when it comes to a larger construction project such as this.
- One Council Member expressed concerns that they should have been given a few options not just a very expensive option with 2 bids on that option.
 - o Even though a new Council has been elected, they are still bound to the previous Council's direction. Based on the direction we were given in the motion, staff have followed the direction of Council.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

Finance, Office of the CAO

LEGISLATION/POLICY

[New Brunswick Procurement Act](#)

[Tantramar Purchasing By-Law](#)

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Up to \$936,390 plus HST

This item was not included in the Capital budget for 2026 approved by Council on December 9, 2025.

It should be noted that the only place funds could come from would be the General Capital Reserve Fund (GCRF). As of June 1, 2026, the GCRF has a balance of \$6,681,432. \$1,200,000 of this is needed to cover items that were carried over from 2025 Capital Budget. Additionally, we will borrow up to \$3,500,000 from

this fund for the Dorchester Fire Hall as borrowing from ourselves does not have an interest cost. That would leave an estimated \$1,981,432 in the General Capital Reserve Fund.

Deposits to the GCRF are primarily used to accumulate funds that allow us to borrow from ourselves to help pay for large approved and budgeted capital projects with no interest. It is then replenished over time for future larger capital projects.

LEGAL

N/A

COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Social Media, Website, in-person, surveys, pop-ups, etc.

TANTRAMAR 2025-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

This aligns with our *Building a Community of Understanding and Collaboration* pillar from Tantrammar's [2025-2028 Strategic Plan](#).

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Major accessibility improvement to the municipality's most used public facility.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CLIMATE LENS

Climate Lens	Towards	Away	No change
Emissions reduction			x
Stormwater management			x
Thriving natural assets			x
Sustainable processes			x
Climate change adaptation			x
Climate leadership			x

OPTIONS

1. Approve Maxim Construction to install an elevator at the TVMCC for \$895,000 plus HST.
2. Approve Avant Garde Construction and Management to install an elevator at the TVMCC for \$936,390 plus HST.
3. Delay the elevator installation until 2027 (prices may change).
4. Do not approve an elevator installation at the TVMCC.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff are not making a recommendation at this time and ask that Council provide the direction via a motion. Potential motions include:

1. I MOVE THAT COUNCIL APPROVE MAXIM CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$895,000 PLUS HST TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL AN ELEVATOR AT THE TANTRAMAR VETERANS MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTRE.
2. I MOVE THAT COUNCIL APPROVE AVANT GARDE CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$936,390 PLUS HST TO SUPPLY AND INSTALL AN ELEVATOR AT THE TANTRAMAR VETERANS MEMORIAL CIVIC CENTRE.
3. I MOVE THAT COUNCIL DELAY THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ELEVATOR AT THE TVMCC AND THAT THE CAO DIRECT STAFF TO BRING THE PROJECT FORWARD DURING THE 2027 CAPITAL BUDGETING PROCESS.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A