



CITY COUNCIL REPORT

TITLE:
2026 FLOOD RECOVERY

PRESENTER:
Tobin Praznik

DEPARTMENT:
Emergency Management

ATTACHMENTS: DATE:
7/20/2026

CLEARANCE / APPROVALS:
Troy Tripp Director of Finance
Terry Parlow General Manager
Dave Wardrop City Manager

RECOMMENDATION(S):
That \$2,280,000 be authorized to be expended for flood mitigation work completed to date, and further flood recovery projects

And further that the expenditures be funded from the following reserves, pending any DFA or insurance recoveries:

Fiscal Contingency Reserve	\$1,550,000
Diking & Flood Control Reserve	\$ 500,000
Water Reserve	\$ 180,000
Wastewater Reserve	\$ 50,000

BACKGROUND:
The City of Brandon has been under a flood warning since June 6, 2026. Due to significant rains in the Shellmouth and Assiniboine Basins, the Provincial Hydrologic Forecast Center forecasted the Assiniboine River to peak at 30,000cfs in Brandon.

This flood forecast required the city to declare a State of Local Emergency (SoLE) in order to take immediate pre-event actions to protect city assets and to lessen the impact of these significant flood waters. The city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated, the flood emergency response plan was enacted, and flood mitigation projects were completed prior to the arrival of the river’s peak. The city has incurred pre-event costs that were unbudgeted in order to minimize the flood impact.

The city has submitted the required documentation to the province to be accepted into the Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program; however, funds to cover costs already incurred and to initiate the recovery phase on the identified priorities will be required in advance of the DFA acceptance and claim process.

ANALYSIS:
The 2026 flood event required the city to complete immediate pre-event mitigation work to protect critical and recreational infrastructure, reduce potential damage to public and private property, and maintain essential services during elevated Assiniboine River flows. These works were undertaken under the State of Local Emergency and in accordance with the city’s flood emergency response plan.

Flood mitigation projects completed to date include the construction and reinforcement of temporary flood protection measures, deployment of pumps and related equipment, installation and maintenance of temporary barriers, protection of key roadways and utilities, site monitoring, traffic control, contractor support, material supply, and other emergency response activities required to lessen the impact of the flood peak. Costs incurred to date are currently estimated at approximately \$1,405,000 subject to final invoice acceptance.

Completed mitigation work	Status
Grand Valley Dike Closure	Complete
Canada Packers Soccer Complex Dike	Complete
Riverbank Discovery Centre Dike	Complete
3400 Grand Valley Road Ring Dike	Complete
Wheat City Golf Course Dike	Complete

With the flood peak having passed and river levels receding, the city is transitioning from mitigation to recovery. Flood recovery projects are expected to include removal of temporary works, disposal or stockpiling of flood protection materials, inspection and repair of impacted roads, drainage infrastructure, riverbank and outfall areas, restoration of affected public lands, cleaning and servicing of pumps and equipment, and completion of required documentation to support DFA cost recovery.

Remaining recovery projects	Anticipated timing
Canada Packers Soccer Complex Dike Landscaping	2027
Riverbank Discovery Centre Dike Landscaping & Culvert Install	Late 2026
Grand Valley Dike Closure Removal	Immediate
Water Treatment Plant Intake Cleanup	Immediate
Water Treatment Plant Sludge Removal	Late 2026 or 2027
3400 Grand Valley Road Ring Dike Removal	Immediate
Grand Valley WWS Cleaning & Inspection	Immediate
Wheat City Golf Course Construction Cleanup Phase 1	Immediate
Wheat City Golf Course Construction Cleanup Phase 2	Late 2026 or 2027
General cleanup operations (pump removal, sandbag disposal, tiger dam removal etc.)	Immediate

The total estimated requirement for completed mitigation work and remaining flood recovery projects is \$2,280,000. Authorization to use the Fiscal Contingency Reserve will allow the City to pay costs already incurred, proceed with time-sensitive recovery work, and maintain financial continuity while DFA eligibility and reimbursement amounts are reviewed by the province.

Numerous site inspections are will be required at many locations that include:

- 3rd Street Dam & riverbank erosion
- Dinsdale Park
- 18th Street & 1st Street & Red Willow Bridge multi-use pathways
- Grand Valley WWS repairs
- Queen Elizabeth Park

Final project costs will vary based on damage assessments and the scope of infrastructure repairs identified during recovery inspections.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

As per the Tendering and Procurement Policy, Council approval is required when the contract value cannot be accommodated in the current year’s financial plan.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

While the City awaits confirmation of mitigation and restoration activity eligibility from Manitoba EMO, authorization of the required expenditur es by Council is required . Some restoration work will commence immediately while other activities will be planned in the next fiscal year.

The forementioned costs incurred and remaining are not included in the 2026 Financial Plan, thus requiring Council authority. Based on available estimates and nature of the work required, the following funding sources are recommended:

- Water Reserve: \$180,000 (Treatment Plant restorative work)
- Wastewater Reserve: \$50,000 (Sewer cleanup and inspection)
- Diking & Flood Control Reserve: \$500,000 (Majority of pre-impact dike work, excluding golf course)
- Fiscal Contingency Reserve: \$1,550,000 (Remainder of estimate)

The total estimated mitigation and restoration costs is \$2,280,000.

The recommended reserves have the following projected closing balance for the 2026 fiscal year:

- Water Reserve: \$11,915,350
- Wastewater Reserve: \$12,688,296
- Diking & Flood Control Reserve: \$602,480
- Fiscal Contingency Reserve: \$1,713,843

Initial estimates indicate that the city could recover approximately 68%, or \$1,550,000, these cost through DFA. Under the DFA municipal cost-sharing formula, municipalities are responsible for the initial portion of event costs, with provincial participation increasing as total eligible expenditures increase. As a result, the city should expect to retain some unrecoverable costs even if the majority of mitigation and recovery activities are deemed eligible. Importantly, this is only an estimate as eligibility of activities and sites has not yet been determined by DFA.

The city’s Risk Management department has also been working with the insurer to determine what incurred losses may be recoverable through that coverage.

Any recoveries the city received from this event will be returned to the appropriate reserve listed above. Recoveries may not be determinable with a high degree of confidence within the current fiscal year.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

There are some risk s associate d with limited i nformation at this time:

- With the river not completely in bank, there may be additional sites and impacts identified, including those sites that require further inspection
- With estimated recovery costs, there may be additional funds required to complete the work
- With the anticipated DFA process, the technical site inspections may limit what qualifies for an eligible claim

CONCLUSION:

It is recommended t hat \$2,280,000 be authorized to be expended for flood mitigation work completed to date, and further flood recovery projects;

And further that the expenditures be funded from the following reserves, pending any DFA or insurance recoveries:

Fiscal Contingency Reserve	\$1,550,000
Diking & Flood Control Reserve	\$ 500,000
Water Reserve	\$ 180,000
Wastewater Reserve	\$ 50,000