 Committee Report

# Report ITR-CS-08-15

**To**: Chair Bob Pringle and Members of Corporate Services Committee

**From**: Geoff Hogan, Information Technology (IT) Director
**Meeting Date:** May 26, 2015

**Subject: SWIFT Network Funding Update**

**Status**: Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CS61-15; Endorsed by County Council June 2, 2015 per Resolution CC78-15;

## Recommendation(s)

**WHEREAS the 2015 approved budget included $216,000 for the South West Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project;**

**AND WHEREAS the Western Ontario Warden’s Caucus (WOWC) requires a draw of $20,000 to continue activities to get the project funded;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT report ITR-CS-08-15 be received;**

**AND THAT Grey County continues to fully support the SWIFT project and forwards the requested payment of $20,000 to the WOWC.**

## Background

Grey County has been a strong supporter of the WOWC’s SWIFT project. SWIFT is a $245M project that will bring fibre based ultra-broadband to all of southwest Ontario. As part of the $16M municipal contribution to SWIFT Grey County has pledged $216,000 per year for five years in support of the SWIFT project.

In the [attached letter](https://greydocs.ca/urm/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=GC_249862&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased), SWIFT has requested an interim payment of $20,000 from Grey County so SWIFT is able to complete additional technical and outreach work requested by the Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI). SWIFT staff are hoping that all the requirements for MEDEI will be met by mid-summer 2015. The hope is that a funding announcement will come when all the MEDEI requirements have been satisfied.

# Financial / Staffing / Legal / Information Technology (IT) Considerations

The 2015 approve Grey County budget includes $216,000 for SWIFT.

## Link to Strategic Goals / Priorities

Support of the WOWC project is contiguous with goal 4.5 of the Corporate Strategic plan: Champion a broadband initiative for Western Ontario that will improve telecommunications in underserved areas, thereby improving connections to services and economic opportunities within Grey County and the region.

This initiative supports Council’s overarching goal of expanding the prosperity base (Goal 1) as reliable high speed internet access is crucial to the success of businesses.

## Attachments

[SWIFT Interim Payment request letter](https://greydocs.ca/urm/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=GC_249862&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased)



Respectfully submitted by,

Geoff Hogan
Director of Information Technology