

## 2025 FINANCIAL PLAN

# Operating Budget: Final Draft

Presentation Date: Dec.4<sup>th</sup> 2024

# Key Points

## Budget Impacts

### Changes

- ✓ Tax rate: Reduced to **5.81%** in the Final Draft from 10.18% per the measures below:
  - ✓ Staff wages: No monetary COLA (cost of living adjustments) for 2025.
    - ✓ A modified work schedule for staff to improve efficiency and reduce costs.
  - ✓ Non-mandatory Training, Travel and Conference freeze for 1 year.
  - ✓ A hiring freeze is in place for the year 2025.
  - ✓ A decrease in the estimated insurance rate increase for 2025.
  - ✓ Service cuts to Community Services – such as the Community Support Grant, printed communications, and a reduction of Town-led events.

### There are no changes for the below points from Draft 1

- ✓ RCMP: increase in cost due to a new contract between RCMP & Town.
- ✓ Reserves: Building reserves for emergencies/maintenance.
- ✓ Projects: Infrastructure Management Plan (IMP).

**Note: An average-priced home could see an approximate increase of \$15/month.**

# Budget Summary

## Budget Summary for the Year 2025

Revenue:	\$15,846,142.81
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>\$15,846,142.81</u>
<b>Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b><u>\$ 0.00</u></b>

# Budget Documents

The following Budget Documents are part of this Final Draft:

- Operating Budget 2025 – By Category & 3-year Forecast
- Operating Budget – By Business Unit & 3-year Forecast
- Operating Budget 2025 & 2026 Forecast – Summary by Category (Objects)
- Operating Budget 2025 & 2026 Forecast – Summary by Business Unit
- Individual Department Budgets 2025 – Summary by Business unit

# Reserve Balances & Debenture Limits

## RESERVE BALANCES

Expected balance amount in operating reserve	2,640,497
Expected balance amount in capital reserve	8,825,988
Offsite Levy balance	2,473,317

## DEBT / DEBENTURE LIMITS WORKING

<b>Total debt limit for the town as of Dec 2023</b>	<b>22,059,322</b>
Less balance debt of the Town as of 2024	1,224,313
Less expected debt amount of Westend project	5,000,000
<b>Debt balance</b>	<b>15,835,009</b>

*\*Approximately 30% of debenture limit has been used, and approximately 30% of reserves have been expended since 2023.*

# Conclusion

- ❖ The budget is the Council's key policy tool, guiding resource allocation to meet the Town's needs and enhance community well-being.
- ❖ Budget 2025 is largely status quo, with minor service reductions, changes in RCMP costs, Public safety staff adjustments, increased reserves, and the Infrastructure Management Project.
- ❖ The town's budget outlook shows a need for substantial additional funding to maintain its current infrastructure and service levels.
- ❖ The 2025 budget includes one-time adjustments (no conferences, no COLA) that ought to be returned in the 2026 budget.