



# TOWN OF **DIAMOND VALLEY**

MEDIA RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 18, 2025

### **Budget 2026: Back-to-Basics**

#### **Council approves responsible budget with 4.2% tax increase and significant transfer to reserves**

Diamond Valley Council has approved the 2026 Operating Budget, delivering a sustainable financial path through organizational restructuring, operational efficiencies, and a disciplined focus on core services.

**The approved budget reduces the projected tax increase from 21% to just 4.2% while contributing \$697,204 to reserves—strengthening the Town’s long-term financial resilience and capacity to fund future infrastructure needs.**

“This budget reflects responsible choices and a shared commitment to long-term sustainability. Residents sent us a loud and clear message that they did not want big tax increases. We heard them. By making tough but necessary decisions, **we’ve kept taxes affordable and still managed to build meaningful reserves for the future of our community.**” – Mayor Brendan Kelly

#### **Back to Basics**

The initial budget projection in November required a 21% tax increase. Early restructuring reduced this to 12%, and further efficiencies brought the final increase to 4.2%—roughly \$11.52 per month for a \$590,000 assessed home (not including provincial requisitions).

#### **Financial Prudence and Reserves**

**Even with the reduced tax increase, the 2026 budget transfers \$697,204 to reserves, including \$35,000 to the newly created Pool Reserve. This contribution enhances Diamond Valley’s ability to address future capital projects, emergencies, and infrastructure renewal without relying on borrowing or future tax spikes.**

#### **Organizational Restructuring**

A 20% staff reduction was implemented and supported by organizational restructuring. Changes include a unified Corporate Services Department, streamlined Parks & Recreation Division, integration of OHS into the Public Safety Department, contracting out Water and Wastewater operations, and continued progress toward full cost recovery in utilities.

“We were faced with a challenging task that required difficult decisions,” said CAO Adam Davey. “This back-to-basics budget streamlines processes, creates efficiencies, and positions Diamond Valley to operate from a foundation of affordability and stability.”

#### **2026 Service Level Adjustments**

To align with reduced staffing and new operating models, the following strategic adjustments will take effect:

- Closure of the Turner Valley campground beginning in 2026 – the Town will seek a non-profit operator
- End of Town-operated transit service as of December 23, 2025
- Reduced weekend snow clearing of trails and arena staff backup coverage
- Closure of the Turner Valley outdoor rink
- Christmas tree collection moved to a drop-off site
- Municipal communications focused on essential updates
- Reduced Public Works support for third-party events

The full Draft 2 Operating Budget presentation is available at [www.diamondvalley.town/Council](http://www.diamondvalley.town/Council)

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