

Council adopts 2022 operating and capital budgets

(Rocky Mountain House, Alta.) – Following three-days of budget deliberations, Clearwater County Council approved the four-year financial and 10-year capital plans in a special meeting held December 21, 2021. These plans include operating and capital budgets for 2022.

The 2022 operating and capital budgets include operating revenues of \$54,502,641 and operating expenses of \$63,022,071 (including amortization) using \$1,744,175 of restricted funds for operations, capital revenue of \$16,771,250 and capital expenses of \$52,379,099, using \$27,662,086 of restricted funds for capital.

This budget represents the fourth year of an annual financial planning and evaluation approach introduced in 2018, where discussions happen year-round to review Council's service levels, capital priorities and resources with respect to the approved four-year strategic plan.

Highlights of capital projects proposed for 2022 include reconstructing River Road (4km) from Hwy 11A to Hwy 11 (\$1.6M) with potential paving in 2023, Beaver Flats Road grading RR 6-0 (8.6Km) from 4.6 Km north of Hwy 12 to Twp Rd 42-0 (\$7.4M), Regional Wastewater Mechanical Treatment System in Leslieville (\$2.3M), upgrades to the Condor sanitary collection mains and improvements to the storm water / curb and gutter system within the Hamlet (\$4.4M), Gravel road rehabilitation (\$4.8M), Bridge rehabilitations and replacements (\$7.7M), Nordegg Phase 2 residential subdivision (\$3.2M) and Nordegg Discover Centre Permanent Displays (\$398,000).

Other notable adjustments to the County's 2022 budget included postponing construction of the Leslieville Salt Storage Facility until an Area Structure Plan (ASP) is in place, and deferral of the broadband project in Ferrier of fibre to the home until Council has had more opportunity to review the proposed project.

"The 2022 budget, along with our reserve management strategy, together position the County to be able to weather the uncertainty and continue to provide residents and businesses a consistent level of service.," said Reeve Daryl Lougheed. "We are a progressive municipality, and it's my hope that we continue to grow our region and its possibilities."

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2022 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Property Tax Collection Breakdown

Each municipality is required to levy taxes on behalf of other organizations and therefore the total tax paid by ratepayers does not stay with the local municipality. The province and the local seniors authority requisition Clearwater County ratepayers for Alberta Education tax, Seniors Housing tax and Designated Industrial property assessment funding.



Clearwater County Municipal Tax* (71.6%)
Provincial School Requisition (26.8% - based on 2021)
Westview Lodge Requisition (1%)
Designated Industrial Property Assessment Costs (0.6%)

Sources of Municipal Taxes*





* Each year Clearwater County Council sets property tax rates in the spring to ensure the amount of tax collected will fund the services, projects, debt repayment and restricted surplus accounts that Council approved as priorities during budget deliberations the previous December. The above diagram is based on the 2022 budget figures.

Sources of Tax Revenue in Clearwater County

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for Clearwater County. Each year in the spring Council sets property tax rates to ensure service levels align with Council priorities. The actual tax rate will not be finalized until April 2022 after the assessment roll is completed for all properties in the County and all requisition amounts have been received from the Province.

	Operating	Capital	Total
Municipal tax revenues	\$ 46,612,637.00		\$ 46,612,637.00
User fees and sales of goods	2,445,887.00		2,445,887.00
Government transfers	1,108,912.00	16,771,250.00	17,880,162.00
Investment income	2,000,000.00		2,000,000.00
Penalties & cost of taxes	735,000.00		735,000.00
Dev. Levies, permits and licenses	36,000.00		36,000.00
Oil well drilling taxes	-		-
Other revenue	1,345,325.00		1,345,325.00
Rental revenue	 218,880.00		
Total revenues	\$ 54,502,641.00	\$ 16,771,250.00	\$ 71,273,891.00
Transfers from reserves	1,744,175.00	27,662,086.00	29,406,261.00
Total funding sources	\$ 56,246,816.00	\$ 44,433,336.00	\$ 100,680,152.00

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2022 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Expenditures

	Operating	Capital	Total
Agriculture & Community Services	\$ 6,125,736.00	\$ 1,996,828.00	\$ 8,122,564.00
Corporate Services	7,903,540.00	5,364,819.00	13,268,359.00
Office of the CAO	1,114,679.00	-	1,114,679.00
Emergency & Legislative Services	5,081,394.00	1,273,900.00	6,355,294.00
Planning & Development	2,587,692.00	398,000.00	2,985,692.00
Public Works Infrastructure	2,860,907.00	21,198,840.00	24,059,747.00
Public Works Operations	15,946,873.00	22,146,712.00	38,093,585.00
Council	 701,250.00	-	701,250.00
Contingency	 500,000.00	-	500,000.00
Amortization	 20,200,000.00	-	20,200,000.00
Total expenditures	\$ 63,022,071.00	\$ 52,379,099.00	\$ 115,401,170.00
less amortization			(20,200,000.00)
Principal payments on long term debts			400,532.00
Transfers to reserves			5,078,450.00
Total expenditures and transfers	\$ 63,022,071.00	\$ 52,379,099.00	\$ 100,680,152.00

How each municipal tax dollar is spent?

This diagram provides a snapshot of how one dollar (\$1) of Clearwater County's municipal tax revenue is allocated (based on the proposed 2022 budgeted operating and capital expenses, not including transfers to reserves or restricted funding used for tangible capital assets).

