



For Immediate Release

News Release

2019 Operating and Capital Budgets

Edson, Alberta, December 5th, 2018 – Council has approved the 2019 Capital and Operating Budgets as presented. The Budget uses a 3.9% municipal tax increase, down from the 4.5% proposed at the Budget workshop in early November. This means the amount of taxes collected by the Town for municipal purposes will increase by approximately \$400,000, however, the actual taxes levied on an individual property will be dependent on their property assessment.

To achieve this reduction, the following changes from the Proposed budget are as follows:

- **Salaries/Wages/Benefits:** Decrease expense of \$106,000. This was accomplished with a combination of the following:
 - Salary adjustments,
 - Decrease in benefit costs such as Life, Long Term Disability and Dental,
 - Decrease in Employer LAPP Pension contribution rate,
 - Removal of two summer students. (This may have minor service level implications.)
- **Natural Gas Contract:** Decrease expense of \$34,000. The Town's ENMAX contract was up for renewal and the contracted amount per gigajoule decreased.
- **Public Works Contracted Services:** Decrease expense of \$20,000 (This may have minor service level implications)
- **911 Centre:** Increase expense of \$18,500. This equates to an approximate 12% increase from 2018. This is due to some wage adjustments at the County as well as requirements from the Province for staffing levels.
- **Yellowhead County Cost Share:** Decrease revenue of \$34,000. After adjustments, there are amendments to the Cost-sharing amounts from the County.

The 3.9% increase includes 0.4% (\$43,000) towards relieving parts of the budget that are currently being funded from areas other than taxation. Those areas include:

- \$157,000 from the Medical Centre Rent

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- \$220,000 from the Revenue Sharing
- \$485,500 from the Utility Rates
- \$246,000 from Tax Stabilization Fund (Contingency)

While all of these areas will need to be addressed over time, Council has approved \$43,000 to be used to reduce the pressure from the Medical Centre rent. This would mean that, for this year, the Town is only relying on \$114,000 of this rent to offset taxes.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget was approved as presented. It includes \$10,000,000 from reserves and a \$10,000,000 debenture to go towards the new Multi Use Facility. The facility is currently budgeted at \$40,000,000 and being cost shared 50/50 with Yellowhead County. The Capital Budget also includes about \$6,500,000 for road rehab work, money for equipment and vehicle replacements, a server replacement, the breathing apparatus replacement program and \$200,000 towards a Fire Department Training Structure joint project with Yellowhead County.

Reserves

There have been only two changes to the Reserves:

- Very slight adjustment to the RSA reserve due to some changes in the Operating Budget
- The \$43,000 mentioned above moved into the Multi-Plex Operating Reserve.

The 2019 budget document is available on our website at www.edson.ca/budget.

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