



REQUEST FOR DECISION

TO: Committee of the Whole **MEETING DATE:** February 26, 2025
FROM: David Douglas, Director of Financial Services and Information Technology
SUBJECT: **2025 Budget Report**
FILE NO: 1700-20-2025

RECOMMENDATION

That a 5.62% property tax increase to cover 2025 General Operating Fund increases be approved.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee of the Whole with:

- A summary of the General Operating Fund;
- The opportunity to provide additional direction on budget items; and
- A proposed recommendation on the 2025 tax rate.

OPTIONS

1. That additional requests concerning the 2025 budget be provided to staff.

DISCUSSION

Background

At the previous budget meeting the Committee of the Whole made various requests for items to be added and removed from the 2025 budget. The table below shows the requests and the results of the requests on the property tax increase.

Category	Amount (\$)	Percentage %
2025 Operational Deficit	<u>\$ 1,827,055</u>	
Estimated 2024 Surplus to 2025		
Interest on Investments	600,000	
Operational Savings	480,000	
Travel and Training	100,000	
Total Estimated Surplus	<u>1,180,000</u>	
2025 Provisional Deficit	647,055	4.70%
Additional Operating Requests (AOR)		
3% for Capital	415,763	
SQL Server Upgrade	10,000	
Community Safety	137,000	Reserve/Taxation
Adobe Upgrade	15,000	
GIS Enhancements	15,000	Reserve
Consultant Technical Sup	100,000	Taxation/Savings
Airport Storage	3,500	
Total Additional Requests	<u>696,263</u>	5.05%
Other Funding for AOR		
Reserve Funding	(115,000)	-0.83%
2025 Budget savings	(41,000)	-0.30%
2025 Final Provisional Deficit	<u><u>\$ 1,187,318</u></u>	8.62%

Staff would like the Committee of the Whole to recommend that Council endorse a tax rate of 5.62% and incorporate the approved budget requests into the Five-Year Financial Plan. The 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw would then be prepared for consideration of adoption prior to the May 15 deadline.

POLICY AND BYLAW IMPLICATIONS

Recommendations to Council concerning the 2025 property tax rate will be incorporated into 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw.

SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The goal(s) within the adopted Integrated Community Sustainability Plan that relate to this report are:

- Social Sustainability and Community Well Being
- Economic Sustainability
- Environmental Sustainability
- Arts and Culture
- Sustainable Community Growth and Development
- Leadership in Sustainability

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The goal(s) within the adopted Strategic Plan that relate to this report are:

- Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Ensuring Financial Balance

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The property tax effect on an average home would be as follows:

Property tax sample on an average residence

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Assessed values	994,039	994,039	0	0.00%
General Municipal	\$ 2,356	\$ 2,169	\$ 187.00	8.62%
Sewer User Fee	\$ 705	\$ 679	\$ 26.00	3.95%
Sewer Parcel Tax	\$ 274	\$ 274	-	0.00%
Solid Waste	\$ 303	\$ 303	-	0.00%
	\$ 3,638	\$ 3,425	\$ 213.00	6.22%

The property tax effect on an average business would be as follows:

Property tax sample on an average Business

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Assessed values	1,509,081	1,509,081	-	0.00%
General Municipal	\$ 8,797	\$ 8,099	\$ 698.0	8.62%
Sewer User Fee	\$ 706	\$ 679	\$ 27.0	3.98%
Sewer Parcel Tax	\$ 274	\$ 274	-	0.00%
	\$ 9,777	\$ 9,052	\$ 725	8.01%

COMMUNICATIONS

The decisions of Council concerning the 2025 Budget will be communicated to the public through the 2025-2029 Five-Year Financial Plan process.

Respectfully submitted,

David Douglas,

Director of Financial Services and Information Technology