



Council approves 2022 budget with 3.99 percent tax increase

Wednesday, April 13, 2022 (Wetaskiwin, Alberta) – After four days of deliberations, an online public consultation, and two virtual open houses, Wetaskiwin City Council approved the 2022 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets on March 28, 2022.

To provide an adequate level of service to citizens during a period of rising costs with minimal growth in assessment, Council has approved an increase in the tax requirement of 3.99 percent for 2022.

The municipality continues to face challenges from costs downloaded by both the provincial and federal governments. These downloaded costs accounted for 3.47 percent (\$555,960) of the total increase, requiring additional spending in the following areas:

- Increased pay for RCMP members due to contract negotiations for member remuneration resulted in a \$466,860 increase in the 2022 budget for the City's RCMP contract.
- Increased annual cost of \$35,100 due to the provincial government's implementation of a chargeback model for the provincial portion of the Biology Casework Analysis Agreements (BCAA).
- Reduction in Grants in Place of Taxes from the Government of Alberta, which assists municipalities in the cost of providing municipal service, will cost the City \$54,000 for 2022.

"Council's commitment to running as efficiently as possible, while still providing a good level of service, was the focus of 2022's budget deliberations," said Mayor Tyler Gandam.

"Increases to costs outside of our control were a big part of this year's increase to the tax rate."

Council approved the additional 0.52 percent of the increase to balance the 2022 operating budget, which will benefit citizens as preventative maintenance projects can continue and will extend the useful life of our infrastructure.

From the more than \$5.5 million approved in the capital budget, \$1.8 million will be allocated to items that require immediate maintenance in many of the City's facilities, as identified by the Facilities Assessment Report that was completed by Associated Engineering in 2019.

The remaining \$3.7 million of allocated funds will be used for:

- Roadway reconstruction.
- Asphalt overlays.
- Line marking.
- Sidewalk rehabilitation and connector projects.
- Boulevard rehabilitation.





- Alberta First Responders Radio Communications.

About the City of Wetaskiwin

Wetaskiwin is a secure, connected, and inclusive community, home to a diverse population of nearly 13,000 people. Located only 30 minutes south of the Edmonton International Airport, the City of Wetaskiwin provides a high quality of life through ample recreation opportunities, diverse cultural activities, and a modernized, business-friendly downtown.

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