

Corporate Overview

Responsibilities

A municipal Council is the ultimate authority for all actions taken on behalf of the municipal corporation in that it exercises both executive and legislative roles. It fulfills its role by making policies in accordance with the wishes and concerns of the public, subject to provincial laws, policies, and directives. Council plays a managerial role by monitoring ongoing administrative performance and ensuring the best care of resources.

The City of Belleville is represented by City Council that consists of the Mayor (who is elected at-large) and eight Councillors (six of whom are elected from the 'Belleville' Ward and two from the 'Thurlow' Ward).

Each Councillor, in addition to sitting on Council, is also appointed to numerous Committees and Boards whose duties range from providing advice to Council to carrying out policies or programs of the City.

Head of Council (Mayor) and Council Roles

Role of Head of Council

- To act as chief executive officer of the municipality.
- To preside over Council meetings.
- To provide leadership to Council.
- To represent the municipality at official functions; and
- To carry out the duties of the head of Council under this or any other Act.

Team

- Mayor – Neil Ellis
- Councillors (8)
 - Lisa Anne Chatten
 - Barbara Enright-Miller
 - Sean Kelly
 - Kelly Henderson
 - Margaret Seu
 - Garnet Thompson
 - Kathryn Ann Brown
 - Paul Carr

Role of Council

- To represent the public and to consider the well-being and interests of the municipality.
- To develop and evaluate the policies and programs of the municipality.
- To determine which services the municipality provides.
- To ensure that administrative practices and procedures are in place to implement the decisions of Council.
- To maintain the financial integrity of the municipality; and
- To carry out the duties of Council under this or any other Act.

Governance

- The Municipal Act, 2001
- The City's municipal bylaws
- The City's Strategic Plan

Budget Process and Timeline

The Finance Committee at the City is comprised of staff, the Mayor, and two members of Council. They review and determine the annual schedule for the Capital and Operating Budget preparation and presentation, and forward recommendations to Council for approval. The City's Budget & Financial Controls Policy also sets the roles and responsibilities for the Finance Committee and Council associated with the recommendation and approval of:

- Annual Departmental Operating Plans;
- Priorities and guidelines in advance of detailed budget preparation;
- Proposed level of public communication and engagement; and
- Deliberated budget submissions.

The 2026 Capital and Operating budget process continues to utilize the City's established Policy, as well as the requirements under Strong Mayor powers as established under Ontario Regulation 530/22. Under this timeline, the Mayor is required to provide the proposed budget to Council, on or prior to February 1st each year. Failing that, Council is responsible for preparing and adopting a budget with Council retaining the powers to pass the budget.

Requirements under the Strong Mayor's legislation include;

- Council budget amendments are to be provided within 30 days.
- The Mayor has the ability to veto amendments (in writing) within 10 days after the expiry of the 30-day period above.
- Council has the ability to override the Mayor's veto (if utilized) with two thirds vote within 15 days of the expiry of the veto.

After the expiry of the period for Council to override the Mayor's veto, the proposed budget is deemed to be adopted by the municipality and does not require a vote of Council.

Budget Timeline

An em dash (—) represents no milestone.

Month	2026 Capital Budget	2026 Operating Budget
April/May	Approval of Budget Timeline Community Engagement – Survey results report	Approval of Budget Timeline Community Engagement – Survey results report
June	Community Engagement – Survey results report	Community Engagement – Survey results report
July	Capital Budget and 10-Year Capital Plan Guidelines Approved	—
August	Departmental Compilation of documents	Operating Guidelines Approved
September	Committee and Senior Leadership review	Departmental Compilation of documents
October	Capital Budget released and Community Engagement	Departmental review
November	Capital Budget Meeting – Nov 19th	Committee and Senior Leadership review
December	—	Committee and Senior Leadership review continues
January	—	Strong Mayors' budget – Jan 29th
February	—	Operating Budget Meeting – Feb 25th

Budget Guidelines

Number	2026 Capital Budget	2026 Operating Budget
1	Staff shall prioritize capital renewal projects that are identified as high risk (i.e., high consequence and probability of asset failure) in the City's Asset Management Plan, and that in the case of funding constraints, staff collectively defer capital projects that have a lower risk and prioritization score, and that where these scores are equal, priority be given to core infrastructure assets.	The budget be presented with overall residential property tax rate increases not to exceed 5%, excluding any tax rate increases generated from the 2024 Fire Master Plan phase-in approved by Council.
2	Growth-related capital projects be prioritized inline with the Asset Management Plan and approved Master planning documents. Prioritization will consider availability of alternative funding sources beyond the tax levy or user rates (such as development charges), the return on investment for both tax and rate payers, and consistency with the City's Strategic Plan, departmental operating plans, and community priorities.	The budget considers the service areas prioritized through public input received.

Number	2026 Capital Budget	2026 Operating Budget
3	Staff bring forth a proposed increase in contribution to reserve funds for capital projects in the 2026 draft Operating Budget in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Asset Management Plan and as detailed in Staff Report No. DDF-2025-06.	That City Department operating issues presented in budget align with the strategic themes and initiatives outlined in the City's Strategic Plan and Departmental Operating Plans, with priority given to those categorized as Legislative, Compliance, or Health & Safety and Maintenance of Service Levels, and where any Enhancement of Service Levels are proposed, that they align with public input received.
4	The updates to the 10-Year Capital Plan will reflect all relevant asset data and decision-making criteria, including asset condition and risk assessments as outlined in the Asset Management Plan. The Plan will also incorporate a balanced financial strategy that considers the impact on taxpayers and ratepayers, the City's debt capacity, and targets established under the Reserve and Reserve Fund Policy.	The budget incorporates a moderate increase in its tax-funded contributions to capital projects in alignment with the financial strategy outlined in the 2025 Asset Management Plan.

Budget Overview - Corporate

The proposed 2026 Operating Budget is \$237,873,600 in gross expenditures and \$148,075,300 in net expenditures supported from the general tax levy. This represents a 7.14% increase over the 2025 budget. Increased expenditures are attributable to notable impacts in Policing cost pressures and continued and increased investment in capital contributions to reserve fund for infrastructure investment, in line with the City's approved Asset Management Plan.

Revenue decreases are being seen as the result of the one-time reserve funding reductions, in line with decreases in development charge waiver cost expectations and completion of other one-time funding initiatives. User rate increases have continued in an effort to maintain cost recovery ratios for Parks and Recreation and Transit, as well as ensure full cost recovery in the Water and Wastewater portfolios.

Budget Legend

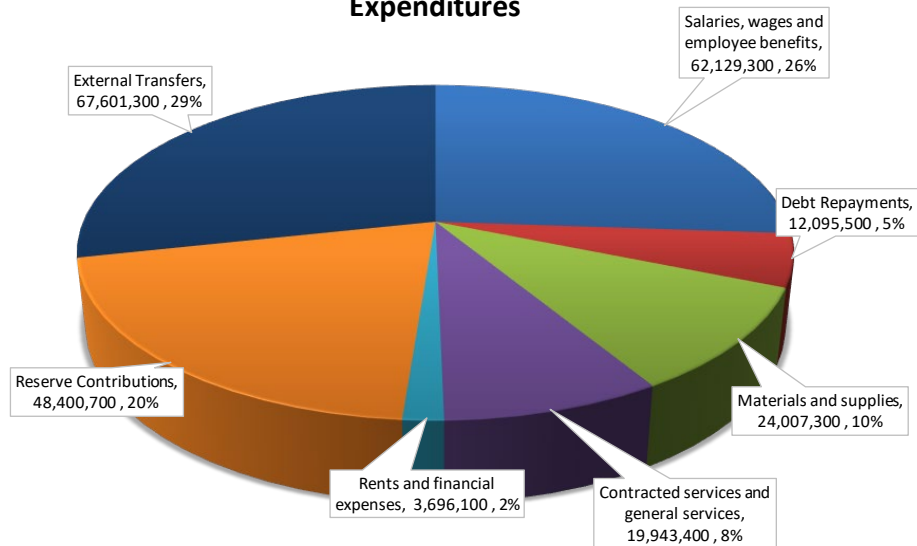
Numbers in parentheses, such as (10,000) are negative.

An em dash (—) represents zero or no data for that cell.

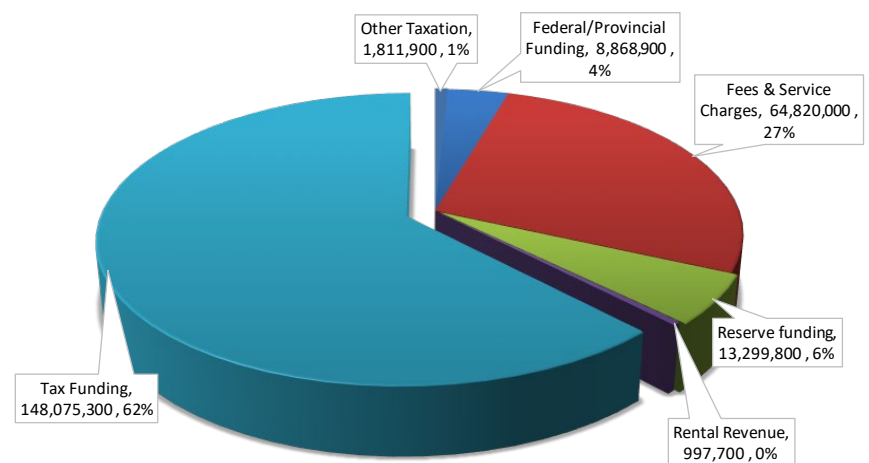
CORPORATE OVERVIEW	2025 Actual YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Base Budget Adjustments	2026 Administrative Adjustments	2026 New Items	2026 Total Budget	Budget Change \$ (dollars)	Budget Change % (percent)
Total Expenses	188,360,186	230,790,500	254,400	-	6,818,700	237,873,600	7,083,100	3.07%
Interfunctional adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Expenses before internal transfers	188,360,186	230,790,500	254,400	-	6,818,700	237,873,600	7,083,100	3.07%

CORPORATE OVERVIEW	2025 Actual YTD	2025 Budget	2026 Base Budget Adjustments	2026 Administrative Adjustments	2026 New Items	2026 Total Budget	Budget Change \$ (dollars)	Budget Change % (percent)
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	51,367,292	58,375,900	3,774,500	-	(21,100)	62,129,300	3,753,400	6.43%
Debt Repayments	9,194,592	10,773,900	1,321,600	-	-	12,095,500	1,321,600	12.27%
Materials and supplies	20,213,296	24,042,900	100,400	-	(146,000)	24,007,300	(35,600)	-0.15%
Contracted services and general services	10,133,714	21,980,100	(1,848,000)	-	(188,700)	19,943,400	(2,036,700)	-9.27%
Rents and financial expenses	1,790,136	4,151,500	(455,400)	-	-	3,696,100	(455,400)	-10.97%
Reserve Contributions	47,635,004	46,433,300	1,042,400	-	925,000	48,400,700	1,967,400	4.24%
External Transfers	48,026,152	65,032,900	(3,681,100)	-	6,249,500	67,601,300	2,568,400	3.95%
Total Revenues	68,643,185	92,582,200	(3,985,600)	-	1,191,700	89,798,300	(2,783,900)	-3.01%
Other Taxation	3,209,383	1,188,500	623,400	-	-	1,811,900	623,400	52.45%
Federal/Provincial Funding	1,152,989	10,424,700	(1,655,800)	-	100,000	8,868,900	(1,555,800)	-14.92%
Fees & Service Charges	56,707,497	62,135,700	2,527,900	-	156,400	64,820,000	2,684,300	4.32%
Reserve funding	6,655,243	17,843,100	(5,533,600)	-	980,300	13,299,800	(4,543,300)	-25.46%
Rental Revenue	918,073	990,200	52,500	-	(45,000)	997,700	7,500	0.76%
Tax Funding	119,717,001	138,208,300	4,240,000	-	5,627,000	148,075,300	9,867,000	7.14%

Expenditures



Revenues



2026 Budget Additional Funding breakdown

Taxation

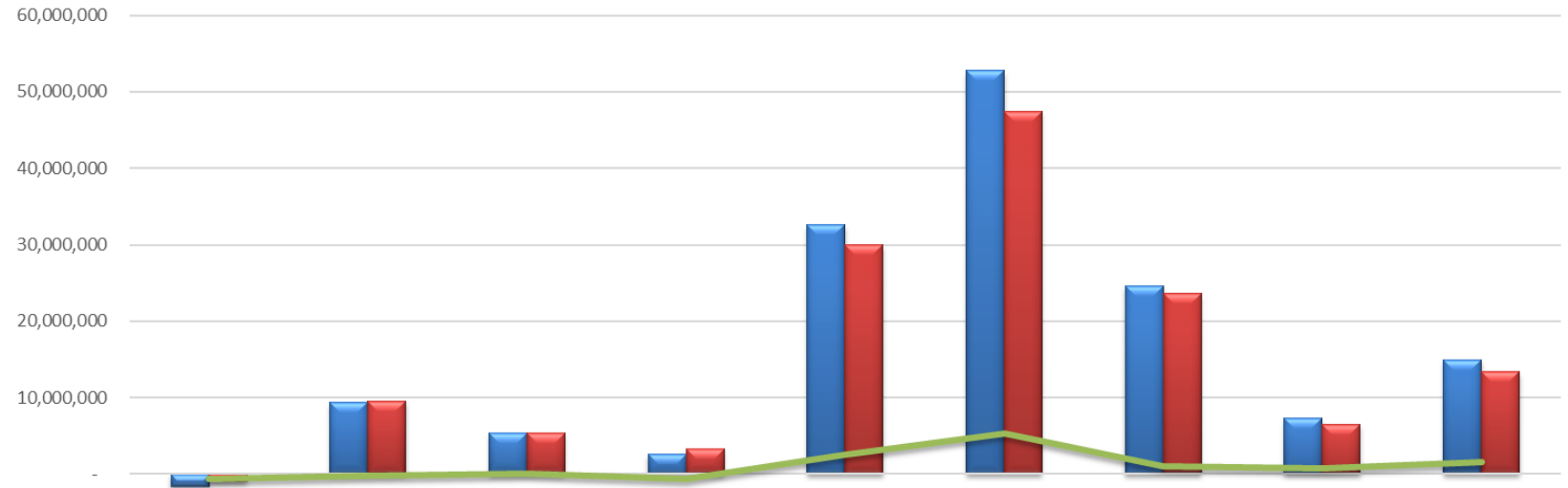
Property taxes (comprised of residential, commercial, industrial, and other tax classes) are the City's main source of revenue. They allow for the provision of important municipal programs and services including reconstruction of municipal capital (roads, facilities, etc.), policing services, fire protection, public transportation, waste management, road and roadside maintenance, recreation and parks services, and much more.

The tax levy increase for 2026 totals \$9,867,000 or 7.14%, and is broken down as follows;

Issues Summary Category	Description	Applies to	\$ increase (decrease) in Tax Levy	% increase (decrease) in Tax Levy
B1-1	Base Budget - Pre-approved budget items	City Departments	\$3,385,000	2.45%
B1-2	Base Budget - Contractual Service Agreements	City Departments	303,800	0.22%
B1-3	Base Budget - Capital Financing	City Departments	1,387,700	1.00%
B1-4	Base Budget - Operating Revenue / Costs	City Departments	(1,499,500)	(1.08%)
B1-5	Base Budget - Annualized / Elimination of Prior Year Issues	City Departments	663,000	0.48%
D1-1	City Boards	Belleville Public Library	69,500	0.05%
D1-2	City Boards	Belleville Police Services	4,531,200	3.28%
D2	External Agencies - Special Purpose Bodies	i.e., Quinte Conservation, Waste Solutions	57,900	0.04%
D3	External Agencies - Provincially Mandated	i.e., Hastings County, Health Unit, MPAC	1,590,900	1.15%
D4	Legislative Compliance or Health & Safety	City Departments	1,545,600	1.12%
D5	Maintain Existing Service Levels	City Departments	-	0.00%
D6	Enhance Existing Service Levels	City Departments	-	0.00%
D7	Tax Relief Measures	City Departments	(2,168,100)	(1.57%)
Total Proposed Increase in Tax Levy			\$9,867,000	7.14%

Tax funded operational increases are driven by contractual agreement increases, as well as increased costs in the Police services portfolio to manage the growth and needs of the community. Another important investment and increase to the budget is the contribution to the capital program. These increases are in line with the City's Asset Management Plan and are critical to the proper maintenance and investment required in the City's infrastructure.

The Net Property Tax Supported City Operating Budget totals \$148,075,300 for 2026, and is broken down as follows;

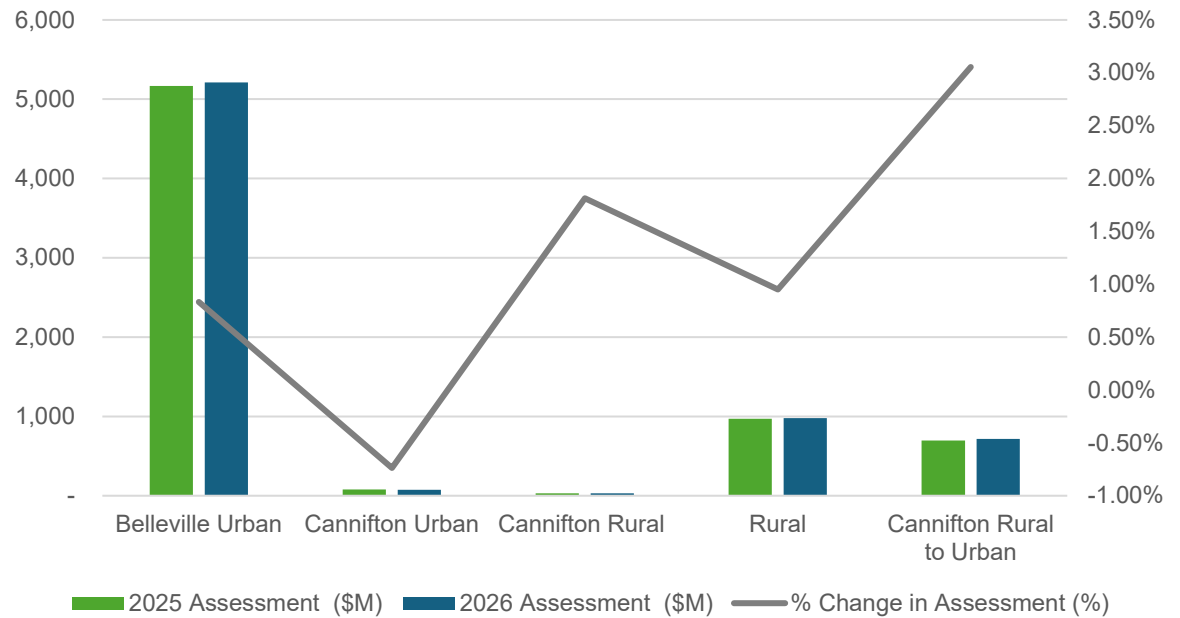


	Other Revenue/ Taxation	General Government	Engineering, Planning & Development	Environmental Services	Transportation & Operational Services	Protective Services	Recreation & Cultural	Health Services	Social & Family Services
2026 Tax Levy Proposed	(1,591,900)	9,369,100	5,341,100	2,658,000	32,587,000	52,788,300	24,620,800	7,322,200	14,980,700
2025 Restated Tax Levy	(918,500)	9,559,300	5,334,200	3,319,600	29,987,800	47,432,700	23,596,300	6,519,300	13,377,600
Increase (decrease)	(673,400)	(190,200)	6,900	(661,600)	2,599,200	5,355,600	1,024,500	802,900	1,603,100

It should be noted that during the 2026 Budget year, Contributions to Capital reserve funds have been redistributed to align with each operational area, (e.g., contributions to support road assets are now classified under Transportation & Operational services, etc.). To be comparable with the 2026 Budget year, the 2025 Operating Budget has been restated to distribute the prior Contribution to Capital reserve funds to the applicable operational areas.

The impact of the proposed 2026 tax levy increase of 7.14% is further reduced by the assessment growth in the City. This growth is based on the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation’s (MPAC) final roll, reporting a total increase of 1.06% or \$7.0 billion in assessment values (including exempt properties).

Tax rates can vary throughout the five billing areas within the City due to a process called “area rating”, which provides a mechanism for taxpayers to pay for the direct or indirect services they receive. When Council establishes the annual budget, individual areas may be impacted to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the cost of the services and assessed values of properties in each area. This produces tax rate differences that vary by area.



The assessment chart outlines high growth in the Cannifton Rural to Urban area and reduced assessment in the Cannifton Urban area. Belleville Urban represents the largest assessment area and while the growth increase is not the largest percentage it represents the largest value of property assessments. Find out which billing table you reside in using the City’s [Tax Billing Table Map](#).

Annual taxes are calculated based on tax rates, as approved by Council, multiplied by the assessed value of your property. Based on the proposed budget, the total tax impacts (including education taxes and the phase-in to the [Fire Master Plan](#) implementation approved by Council in 2024) for a residential property with a \$250,000 property are as follows:

Taxation Area	2026	2025	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Belleville Urban	5,086.35	4,829.49	256.86	5.32%
Cannifton Urban Fire	4,875.29	4,631.08	244.21	5.27%
Cannifton Rural Fire	4,510.38	4,244.82	265.56	6.26%
Rural	3,746.89	3,573.60	173.29	4.85%
Cannifton Rural to Urban	4,604.02	4,291.56	312.46	7.28%

Water

The increased water rate revenue requirement for 2026 totals \$946,700 or 4.81% for a total budget of \$21,721,200:

Issues Summary Category	Description	Applies to	\$ increase (decrease)	% increase (decrease)
B1-1	Base Budget - Pre-approved budget items	Water	9,800	0.05%
B1-2	Base Budget - Contractual Service Agreements	Water	322,800	1.64%
B1-3	Base Budget - Capital Financing	Water	(14,100)	(0.07%)
B1-4	Base Budget - Operating Revenue / Costs	Water	(1,095,500)	(5.56%)
B1-5	Base Budget - Annualized / Elimination of Prior Year Issues	Water	-	0.00%
B1-6/D	Base Budget – Reserve Fund contribution	Water	1,620,800	8.23%
D	Operating Issues	Water	102,900	0.52%
Total Proposed Increase in Water Rate Requirement			946,700	4.81%

Water operations are fully funded by user rates that are approved by Council annually. Cost increases are in line with increased staffing costs and increases in material costs, particularly in the water distribution area. A Low-income senior rebate program is also being proposed in the 2026 Operating budget year, at an estimated cost of \$102,900. The revenue requirement to be funded by water user rates has been offset by increased investment revenue to be earned.

Wastewater

The increased wastewater rate revenue requirement for 2026 totals \$2,142,200 or 11.83% for a total budget of \$19,826,400:

Issues Summary Category	Description	Applies to	\$ increase (decrease)	% increase (decrease)
B1-1	Base Budget - Pre-approved budget items	Wastewater	10,200	0.06%
B1-2	Base Budget - Contractual Service Agreements	Wastewater	(38,200)	(0.21%)
B1-3	Base Budget - Capital Financing	Wastewater	259,000	1.43%
B1-4	Base Budget - Operating Revenue / Costs	Wastewater	(360,300)	(1.99%)
B1-5	Base Budget - Annualized / Elimination of Prior Year Issues	Wastewater	-	0.00%
B1-6/D	Base Budget / Issues – Reserve Fund contribution	Wastewater	2,164,400	11.95%
D	Operating Issues	Wastewater	107,100	0.59%
Total Proposed Increase in Wastewater Rate Requirement			2,142,200	11.83%

Wastewater operations are fully funded by user rates that are approved by Council annually. Significant increases in the contribution to the Sanitary Sewer Reserve Fund are required to support the capital infrastructure needs outlined in the City's Asset Management Plan and 10-year Capital plan. A Low-income senior rebate program is also being proposed in the 2026 Operating budget year, at an estimated cost of \$107,100.

Parking

The increased parking rate revenue requirement for 2026 totals \$173,800 or 20.21% for a total budget of \$1,143,700:

Issues Summary Category	Description	Applies to	\$ increase (decrease)	% increase (decrease)
B1-1	Base Budget - Pre-approved budget items	Parking Services	-	0.00%
B1-2	Base Budget - Contractual Service Agreements	Parking Services	196,400	22.84%
B1-3	Base Budget - Capital Financing	Parking Services	-	0.00%
B1-4	Base Budget - Operating Revenue / Costs	Parking Services	26,600	3.09%
B1-5	Base Budget - Annualized / Elimination of Prior Year Budget Issues	Parking Services		
B1-6/D	Base Budget / Issues – Reserve Fund contribution	Parking Services	220,800	25.67%
D	Operating Issues	Parking Services	(270,000)	(31.40%)
Total Proposed Increase in Parking Rate Requirement			173,800	20.21%

The Parking operations has historically been fully funded by user rates. A parking User Rate study was undertaken and approved by Council in 2026. The approved study addressed updated to rates, as well as several recommendations to improve service and address infrastructure requirements for the operation. Following this, Council also approved a free 2-hour parking initiative to be funded through taxation.

To help ensure both continued parking study initiatives, sufficient asset management contribution funding and to combat significant taxation pressures an operating issue was brought forward for tax relief in the parking area. Through increased meter rates, a revised enforcement approach and deferred of future new parking infrastructure, the parking operation would not need to receive tax funding for operations.

Highlights from Past Year

Achievements

The City had a number of significant achievements throughout the year. Outlined below is a summary of some of these highlights, with additional information and achievements provided throughout each departmental area.

- **Grant Funding Success:** The City secured historic levels of funding from the Federal government funding, including \$16.2 million from the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund and \$10.5 million from the Housing Accelerator Fund, supporting major infrastructure and housing projects.
- **Primary care Practitioner Recruitment Program** – While the recruitment of Primary care practitioners to the community is not a municipal responsibility, the City recognizes the critical importance to the community and had historical levels of success in the primary care recruitment program with 10 family physicians, 2 specialists and a nurse practitioner secured in 2025.
- **Asset Management:** Approval of the updated 2025 Corporate Asset Management Plan, with improved asset prioritization, risk assessment, and service level evaluation across all departments, as well as a 10-year Capital plan that provides a stable funding plan for critically important infrastructure in the community.
- **Housing:** Exceeded housing starts targets, advanced major construction projects (e.g., apartment buildings, YMCA Centre for Life), and launched online permitting and development tracking tools.
- **Technology Modernization:** Implementation of a corporate document management system (SharePoint Online), migration to modern operating systems, and expansion of IT capacity with a dedicated Business Analyst.
- **Fire & Emergency Services:** Implemented the Fire Master Plan, achieving improved rural and urban response times, deploying mass notification systems, and initiating a five-year transition to area-rated taxation starting in 2025.
- **Staffing:** Completed the Job Evaluation Review of all positions with CUPE by the Joint Job Evaluation Committee.

Performance reporting

Outlined below is the performance reporting on key initiatives accomplished in the year, as well as strategic and operational key performance indicators.

2024 Budget Performance

The City's Financial records and statements are prepared on a calendar basis, with year end entries and the audit of the statements completed following the year end. The Financial information from 2024 has been finalized and the Budget to actual results for the City are outlined below;

	Budget	Actual	Difference in \$ (dollars)	Difference in % (percent)
Total Expenses	207,323,000	199,730,446	7,592,554	3.66%
Interfunctional adjustments	-	-	-	
Expenses before internal transfers	207,323,000	199,730,446	7,592,554	3.66%
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	52,987,100	53,346,225	(359,125)	-0.68%
Debt Repayments	10,476,300	10,461,941	14,359	0.14%
Materials and supplies	24,094,200	22,361,844	1,732,356	7.19%
Contracted services and general services	20,089,200	12,356,513	7,732,687	38.49%
Rents and financial expenses	3,446,100	5,793,639	(2,347,539)	-68.12%
Reserve Contributions	39,225,300	42,307,450	(3,082,150)	-7.86%
External Transfers	57,004,800	53,102,835	3,901,965	6.84%
Total Revenues	80,929,200	75,540,778	5,388,422	6.66%
Other Taxation	2,764,700	6,123,385	(3,358,685)	-121.48%
Federal/Provincial Funding	6,357,200	1,466,454	4,890,746	76.93%
Fees & Service Charges	57,262,600	55,392,658	1,869,942	3.27%
Reserve funding	13,569,500	11,627,421	1,942,079	14.31%
Rental Revenue	975,200	930,860	44,340	4.55%
Tax Funding	126,393,800	124,189,668	2,204,132	1.74%

Overall, the City ended the year under budget with a net surplus of just over \$2 million in 2024. This amount reflects a tax-funded surplus, as user-funded areas such as water, wastewater, and parking were balanced to zero by transferring their respective surpluses to their reserve funds. In accordance with the City's Surplus & Deficit Management Policy, the tax-funded surplus was allocated to the Asset Management Reserve Fund and the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund to support future capital infrastructure and stabilization of future tax rates, respectively.

Furthermore, notable variances on the above include:

- Contracted services and federal funding revenue were under budget due to the carryover of major projects, including housing initiatives funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund. Unspent funds and unrecognized grant revenue will be recognized between 2025 and 2028 as these initiatives are completed.

- Rents and financial expenses exceeded budget projections primarily due to higher-than-anticipated development charge (DC) fee waivers. These waivers, both discretionary and legislated, have traditionally been funded through the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund and allocated to the City's DC Reserve Funds to support future growth projects.
- Reserve contributions were over budget due to net surplus results from the now-discontinued Automated Speed Enforcement Program and other taxation activity noted below. Both were transferred to the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund.
- External transfers were under budget due to delays in key projects such as the Bridge Integrated Hub and the Habitat for Humanity capital campaign, which have been continued into 2025.
- Other taxation revenue increased primarily due to higher supplemental revenue from a non-residential assessment coming online during the year.

Additional details are provided on 2024 Budget to actual variances in each departmental performance reporting section.

The financial records and statement for the 2025 calendar year have not yet been completed, however the 2025 year to date information has been provided in the Budget overview to outline progress to date. In the following year the finalized Budget to actual information will be provided in the Departmental plan.

2025 Key Initiative Performance

Key departmental initiatives completed in the year are outlined in each departmental section of this plan. These initiatives are important to the continued growth and effective and efficient delivery of service in the City. Highlighted initiatives supporting the strategic direction of the City include; the Asset Management Planning, Long-Term Financial Planning, Fire Master Plan and Area rating transition, Primary care practitioner recruitment, Housing acceleration initiatives, and continued Information Technology modernization.

Key Initiatives for 2026

Strategic & Operational

Each Department has brought forward initiatives in the year to aid in the strategic direction of the Corporation and for the maintenance and enhancement of operational effectiveness and service delivery to the community.

Each initiative includes an outline of the objectives, timeline, strategic plan alignment, budget amount, and reference to the appropriate budget issue or section, if applicable.

Goals & Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)









Strategic & Operational

Each Department has developed Key Performance Indicators to properly evaluate performance and provide reliable, relevant, and accountable performance metrics to the community. These metrics are outlined in each departmental area and outline the trending and status of each metric identified.











Additionally, through community engagement and Council priority setting; Corporate Key Performance indicators have been developed to provide residents with information and performance tracking on the City as a whole.

KPI Legend

An em dash (—) represents zero or no data for that cell.

Symbol	Meaning
	Positive upward trend.
	Positive downward trend.
	Negative upward trend.
	Negative downward trend
	Neutral trend
	On track
	On track with minor issues
	Off track

KPIs

Key Performance Indicator	Description	2024	2025	2026	Target	Trend	Status
Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve fund as a % of Target Balance	The City has established a policy to maintain a target balance in the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve fund to provide the ability to manage contingencies and the peaks and valleys of corporate expenditures. This policy helps ensure manageable tax increases.	89.9%	41.3%	48.4%	100%		
Asset Management Reserve fund % of target balance	This measures the success of meeting the reserve targets set by Council through the reserve fund policy for the Asset Management Reserve fund.	23.9%	24.6%	27.1%	100%		
Debt service ratio	Debt Service is the amount of principal and interest that a municipality must pay each year to service the debt (principal and interest expenses). As debt service increases it reduces expenditure flexibility. This shows the % of total debt expenditures, including interest as a % of own source revenue. It is a measure of the municipality's ability to service its debt payments.	6.7%	7.1%	7.1%	< 12%		
Property Tax Burden as a Percentage of Income	This metric provides a measure of the affordability of the municipalities residential taxes compared to the average household incomes in the community.	4.4%	4.5%	4.5%	< 5.5%		
Total Municipal Tax Burden as a Percentage of Income	This metric provides a measure of the affordability of the City's residential taxes and cost of water and wastewater services compared to the average household incomes in the community.	6.0%	6.1%	6.2%	< 7%		

Several one-time funding items have been approved for funding from the Tax Rate stabilization reserve fund, and it is expected that these funds will be required in 2026. Most significant expenditures are associated with approved fee waivers and contributions to not-for-profit agencies. City staff continually seeks ways to reduce reliance on this reserve fund, such as revising the use of the OLG Casino Reserve Fund to support primary care recruitment. The balance of the Tax Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund is closely monitored and reported against the approved target throughout the year to the Finance Committee, in accordance with the City's Reserve & Reserve Fund Policy.