

Wheatland County

Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

December 15, 2020

Report prepared by: Matthew Kurceba, Manager of Financial Services



Interim Operating Budget 2021 – 2023 and Capital Budget 2021 – 2025

Recommendation from Administration

Resolution 1: THAT Council approves the Interim Operating Budget 2021 – 2023 as presented.

Resolution 2: THAT Council approves the Interim Capital Budget 2021 – 2025 with the exception for all Unpaved Roads projects totalling \$8,710,000.

Resolution 3: THAT Administration bring forward a 5-year road plan for Council consideration and approval prior to any reconstruction of unpaved roads.

Chief Administrative Officer's Comments

N/A

Report

Division County-wide

Wheatland County's annual budget details the services, programs, and infrastructure we offer to residents and businesses. This budget is carefully developed to provide a high quality of life at an affordable cost for residents and to provide an ideal location for businesses.

Our annual budget consists of an operating and capital budget. The operating budget plans for the day-to-day costs of providing services to residents and businesses. The capital budget plans for the purchase of municipal assets and infrastructure, such as roads and water lines.

Through the budgeting process, we identify the source of funding to cover these costs. These funding sources include property taxes, service fees, government grants, financial reserves, or borrowing.

Developing the budget is a two-stage process. First, an interim budget is approved in December to provide a general plan for services, programs, infrastructure and related costs.

Once the Government of Alberta releases its budget – typically in March – Wheatland County can confirm information about available grant funding and make any necessary adjustments to its interim budget. A final budget is typically set in late April, at which time the tax rates are also determined.

Shortly after the tax rates are set and the final budget is approved, residents and businesses will receive their tax notices.

History of Budget Review:

Council has reviewed the interim operating budget 2021 – 2023 and the interim capital budget 2021 – 2025 for 2.25 and 5.25 hours, respectively, on the following dates:

- November 24, 2020
- December 1, 2020

Disclaimers:

- There is uncertainty of tax revenue based on pending changes to the assessment model from the Provincial Government which administration expects to have more clarity on in March in anticipation of final budget approval.
- The County will update requisitions and other budget estimates that will be actualized leading up to the final budget approval.
- All road projects are to be approved by Council via resolution before projects can begin.

Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation

MGA Section 242:

- (1) Each council must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year.
- (2) A council may adopt an interim operating budget for part of a calendar year.

MGA Section 245:

Each council must adopt a capital budget for each calendar year.

Alignment with the Strategic Plan

N/A

Response Options

- Option 1: THAT the proposed recommendation is accepted/approved.
Option 2: THAT the proposed recommendation is not accepted/approved.
Option 3: THAT an alternate recommendation is accepted/approved.

Implications of Recommendation

General

N/A

Organizational

N/A

Financial

An interim budget is approved in December to allow important projects to proceed or continue and provide a general plan for services, programs, infrastructure, and related costs until a final budget is approved in April.

Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety

N/A

Follow-up Action / Communications

The interim operating budget 2021 – 2023 and capital budget 2021 – 2025 will be distributed to staff and posted on the County website for public viewing.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Interim Operating Budget 2021 - 2023 and Capital Budget 2021 - 2025.docx
Attachments:	- Unapproved Interim Operating Budget 2021 - 2023.pdf - Unapproved Interim Capital Budget 2021 - 2025.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 10, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Buteau'.

Tracy Buteau

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Henderson'.

Brian Henderson