

# Wheatland County

## Request for Decision

Regular Council Meeting

April 21, 2020

Report prepared by: Brian Henderson



### **Operating Budget (2020 – 2022) and Capital Budget (2020 – 2024)**

#### **Recommendation from Administration**

Resolution #1: That Council approve the Operating Budget (2020 – 2022) as presented.

Resolution #2: That Council rescind resolution 19-12-61.

Resolution #3: That Council approve the Capital Budget (2020 – 2024) as presented.

#### **Chief Administrative Officer's Comments**

Due to the recent development of COVID-19, this has been a challenging budget cycle. I would like to thank all staff who have participated in budget discussions to achieve financial constraint during these difficult economic times.

#### **Report**

In December 2019, Council approved the Interim Operating Budget (2020 – 2022) and the Capital Budget (2020 – 2024). In March 2020, COVID-19 changed a number of potential funding sources which in turn has required Administration to re-examine the previously approved Capital Budget. The Capital Budget was reduced by an additional 10 million dollars which has been presented to Council in December 2019.

The Operating Budget has been finalized taking into consideration the assessment changes (overall decrease of 3.5%). Wheatland County Council recognizes the importance of keeping overall tax rates similar to prior years during the challenging economic time for Wheatland County ratepayers. With priorities of keeping tax rates similar to prior year, this has led to a decrease in the overall budget. A decrease in revenue in the budget may lead to minor service level changes to Wheatland County ratepayers.

In the Operating Budget, the final numbers have been updated:

- All requisitions (Education, Solid Waste, Housing Body).
- All other funding (Wheatland FCSS, Fire Dispatch, Library).
- Wages and employer paid benefits.
- CRISP, CERB, and Fire operating funding based on predetermined formulas.
- Decreased interest revenue due to decreased interest level rates.
- Removal of lending funds to Wheatland Regional Corporation as they have secured other funds for Phase 3 construction.
- Various operational projects put on hold due to economic uncertainty.

For administrative purposes, Administration is requesting Wheatland County Council rescind the previous resolution:

***“RESOLUTION 19-12-61 WILSON MOVED approval of the ‘Capital Budget’ (2020-2024), as presented/provided with the request for decision.”***

### **Relevant Policies, Practices, and Legislation**

MGA s. 242(1) Each council must adopt an operating budget for each calendar year.

MGA s. 245 Each council must adopt a capital budget for each calendar year.

### **Alignment with the Strategic Plan**

N/A

### **Response Options**

Option 1: THAT Council accepts/approves the recommendation as proposed.

Option 2: THAT Council does not accept/approve the recommendation as proposed.

Option 3: THAT Council accepts/approves an alternate recommendation of Council’s choosing.

### **Implications of Recommendation**

#### **General**

Approving the final Operating Budget and the amended Capital Budget will provide direction for staff during the next year on how to proceed with operational and capital projects in 2020.

#### **Organizational**

N/A

#### **Financial**

Approving the final Operating Budget and the amended Capital Budget will provide revenue sources for Wheatland County. The primary source of funding is taxation revenue, therefore passing the Operating Budget will determine the level of taxation required to operate Wheatland County.

#### **Environmental, Staff, and Public Safety**

N/A

### **Follow-up Action / Communications**

The final Operating Budget (2020 – 2022) and amended Capital Budget (2020 – 2024) will be distributed to staff and posted on the County website for public viewing.

Administration will then prepare the tax bylaw in accordance with section 247 of the MGA.