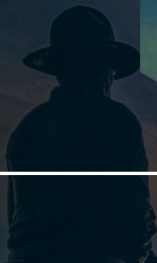




Let's Talk Cochrane



BUDGET

## What We Heard Report Fall 2022





Fall engagement consisted of two in person pop-up sessions at Spray Lakes Sawmills Family Sports Centre, and an online survey that ran from October 25 - November 9, 2022. The draft 2023-2025 budget was built using feedback from the Spring 2022 engagement where the following community priorities were identified: Well maintained parks, pathways and green spaces, efficient roadways, community safety and abundant and affordable recreation opportunities.

In this engagement, boards identifying the five aspirations for Cochrane from the Strategic Plan were highlighted and action plans and capital projects that align with the five aspirations were provided.





Cochrane staff asked residents if they would rank the community aspirations in alignment with their own values:

The online survey had 91 participants, and provided the following results:

- 1 Identity**
- 2 Open space & natural areas**
- 3 Livability**
- 4 Vibrant economy**
- 5 Connectivity**

This is the result from the in-person engagement:

- 1 Open space & natural areas**
- 2 Connectivity**
- 3 Livability**
- 4 Vibrant economy**
- 5 Identity**





## Comments & Themes

### Parks & Recreation

- Keep up with our community recreation needs (i.e. ice surfaces & ball diamonds)
- Improve park maintenance, river access, bike paths
- Install a sound barrier around the pickleball / multi-use courts

### Property taxes

- Minimize tax increase / decrease spending / control inflation
- Significant tax increase in 2022 and proposed in 2023
- Delay / phase / downsize projects
- Take control of finances through a responsible, balanced budget
- Would pay more for increased services and greater supports for our community
- Previous aversion to necessary tax increases has set us behind
- We have been underfunding for a long time and we need to fund things appropriately

### Capital projects

- 10-year capital forecast increased by \$99M – What projects are being added?
- Prioritize infrastructure prior to building new communities
- No new projects – just fix current projects

### COLT

- Improve COLT / Needs to be a scheduled service / regular routes

### Business development

- Charge business tax to local businesses
- Create more opportunities for businesses to connect and grow

### Traffic

- Traffic needs to catch up with development
- Need more roadway infrastructure (i.e. James Walker Trail, traffic circle at Centre St and Railway St)
- Traffic enforcement

### Compensation

- Do not support CAO increase / CAO salary / huge wage increases
- Decrease Council compensation
- Review compensation for firefighters, Directors and Executive Directors
- Do not support 3.5% COLA

### General

- Recognize that we are not a town anymore
- Invest in an environmental manager
- More street lights on the older part of Cochrane
- Council needs to manage growth
- Appreciate Council asking for more information on the proposed Indigenous Centre