

# Council highlights

## **Delegation: Alberta Environment**

Alberta Environment & Protected Areas provided an update on the drought conditions predicted for later this year. The presentation highlighted that several Alberta river basins are facing significant drought conditions due to low rainfall, higher temperatures and lower than average snowpack, increasing the potential for drought conditions in 2024.

## **Delegation: Bike Cochrane**

Paul Perrault, Director of Operations presented Bike Cochrane's 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Plan.

## **Audit Update**

Administration and the Town's auditors presented an update on work directed at the 2022 audit qualifications and the 2023 Audit plan. Administration has been working with the auditors to ensure appropriate systems are in place. This work will ensure that Cochrane's reporting, tracking and internal systems align with best-practice and are reflective of a community our size.

## **CUTRIC's Performance Simulation and Zero Emission Vehicle Implementation/Rollout Planning Project Update**

Cochrane, in collaboration with the Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC), initiated a planning study in 2022 to explore the potential electrification of COLT.

Financed partly by the Gov of Canada's Zero Emission Transit Fund, the study evaluated the viability of transitioning Cochrane's current gasoline bus fleet to battery-electric buses.

Due to potential changes in COLT service models and the lack of necessary infrastructure, the implementation of electrification is deemed infeasible at present. Administration remains attentive to evolving trends in electrified transit.

## **Parks, Recreation & Community Culture Plan**

Council approved three planning projects in 2024:

1. Parks, Recreation & Community Culture Plan
2. Connectivity Plan
3. Bow River Strategy

The Parks, Recreation & Community Culture Plan will assess community needs, trail development standards, riverfront enhancements, and public washroom strategies.

## **Community Growth Year End Report 2023**

Community Growth continues to focus on three priorities:

1. Ensure MDP continues to advance on schedule.
2. Maintain positive momentum of the Station, Incubator, and Smart Start.
3. Organizational resiliency & business continuity.

## **2023 Development Summary Report**

- Cochrane experienced a slight decrease in development from 2022.
- The population is estimated to have increased by 1,326 residents or 4%.
- 510 new homes were built, a decrease from 540 in 2022.
- Cochrane has between 13.4 and 15.4 years of land supply in areas with approved land use.
- Cochrane has between 8.1 to 9.2 years of growth within our current water license.