

TOWN OF COCHRANE MEDIA RELEASE

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2016 COCHRANE BUDGET APPROVED; TAX INCREASE DECREASED TO 0.56%

Cochrane, AB – Council made a few changes during their budget deliberations last month, and approved the revised 2016 budget at last night’s Council meeting.

The Town’s total expenditure budget for 2016 is \$46.7 million. The property tax increase of 0.56% is estimated to impact property taxes on the average residential property (assessed at \$465,800) by \$0.95 per month, or \$11.41 for the year. The total property taxes in the 2016 budget is \$22,915,893.

There were no changes to the proposed \$9.6 million capital budget:

Cascade sanitary main	\$ 2.1
Roads renewal program	\$ 1.8
James Walker Trail south bridge design	\$ 1.0
Fleet replacements	\$ 0.8
Technology upgrades	\$ 0.7
Facilities growth, including RancheHouse parking expansion	\$ 0.6
Organic waste carts	\$ 0.5
Future wastewater capacity pre-design	\$ 0.5
Facilities lifecycling, including ClubHouse, Mitford Park washrooms	\$ 0.4
Second St W sanitary main	\$ 0.3
Other capital projects	<u>\$ 0.9</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS	\$ 9.6

During the day-long deliberations November 20, Council made a number of adjustments.

1. Council budget: added \$9,000 for conference and general expenses
2. Protective Services: added a Municipal Enforcement officer and increased revenues by \$40,000 as a result; put \$73,955 into reserves for a second Municipal Enforcement officer
3. Fire: reduced the casual staffing increase by \$189,000
4. Pool: reduced fee increase to keep fees the same as 2015

5. Community grants:

Annual Grant Recipients	2015 Grant	2016 Requested	Difference 2015 Received to 2016 Request	Council Approved	Difference: 2016 Request to 2016 Approved
Community Grants program- operating	\$25,000	\$25,000	-	\$25,000	\$0
Community grants program- capital	-	-	-	25,000	
Community Association grants	4,500	4,500	-	4,500	\$0
FCSS grants	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	\$0
Boys and Girls Club	30,000	35,000	(5,000)	31,800	\$3,200
Activettes	12,000	12,000	-	12,000	\$0
Handibus	107,682	143,121	(35,439)	120,037	\$23,084
Humane Society	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	\$0
Sustainable Partners					
Uniting Resources	10,000	-	10,000	-	\$0
Stockmens	35,000	35,000	-	35,000	\$0
Cochrane Tourism Assoc	47,190	52,700	(5,510)	47,190	\$5,510
Bow River Basin Council	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	\$0
Little Creeks and Rough Fescue	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	\$0
Citizens on Patrol	3,422	3,516	(94)	3,516	\$0
Victim Services	25,000	25,000	-	25,000	\$0
Total Annual Grants	\$367,794	\$ 403,837	\$ (36,043)	\$ 397,043	\$6,794

One-time grants funded from lifecycling reserve	2015 Grant	2016 Requested
SLSFRC	\$25,000	-
Total One Time Grants	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Total grants budget	\$ 392,794	\$ 403,837

Changes to utilities remained as proposed in the draft budget:

1. Eco Centre fee increase of \$0.25 per month
2. Waste and recycling collection rate increase of \$0.95 per month
3. Wastewater base rate increase of 4.2%
4. Water base and consumption rate increase of 3%

There is no increase to storm sewer rates.

Changes made during Council debate December 14:

1. Protective Services: reduced the \$73,955 reserve contribution to zero, eliminating second Municipal Enforcement officer position
2. Information Services: increased the payback of the enterprise resource planning (ERP) software to five years, resulting in a \$78,000 decrease

Council received the draft 2016 budget at the end of October. Town administration solicited questions and feedback from the community until the end of November. All feedback was provided to Council before their deliberations.

Full budget documents are available on www.cochrane.ca/Budget.

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