



Council highlights

Local Growth & Sustainability Grant Program

Administration presented information on a grant application under the Growth Component of the Government of Alberta's Local Growth and Sustainability Grant (LGSG) Program. The application is intended to support Cochrane's servicing of the Horse Creek school site.

The Horse Creek School Site Servicing Project, including the off-site watermain, will cost a total of \$11.4M. The servicing of the site is included in Cochrane's 2025-2027 Budget. The LGSG Program will contribute up to 50% of the total eligible project costs, meaning the Government of Alberta could contribute up to \$5.7 million.

Council endorsed the grant application.

Bylaw 24/2024 ~ Envision Cochrane 2050

Council gave second reading to bylaw 24/2024 with one language amendment – removing reference to 'infill' and replacing it with 'redevelopment.'

The document is now considered finalized from the Town's perspective and will be sent to the Calgary Metropolitan Regional Board (CMRB) to determine if the plan is in alignment with the CMRB Growth Plan.

Once this is complete, the bylaw will come back to Council for third reading.

Helping Hands Request

In November 2024, Helping Hands provided Council with an update on the programs and services they provide within the community, as well as a request for financial support.

In 2024, the Town received a repayment of \$26,086.33 from the Civic Partnership Agreement with Victim Services.

Council directed Administration to allocate \$75,000 from the civic partnership agreement and operating reserves to the Helping Hands Society of Cochrane within the 2024 budget.

Draft 2025 budget

Council adopted the 2025 Operating Budget, the 2025 Capital Budget and the 2025 Service fee increases.

The new proposed revenue requirement increase, net of growth, is 2.63% for 2025, resulting in an increase of \$5.66/month for the average residential property.

Bylaw 05/2024 ~ Water Utility Bylaw Amendment

Council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 05/2024, allowing the process to move forward to increase service fee rates which will be implemented January 1, 2025.

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Bylaw 06/2024 ~ Sanitary Sewer Bylaw Amendment

Council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 06/2024, allowing the process to move forward to increase service fee rates which will be implemented January 1, 2025.

Bylaw 07/2024 ~ Waste Management Bylaw Amendment

Council gave second and third reading to Bylaw 07/2024, allowing the process to move forward to increase service fee rates which will be implemented January 1, 2025.

Bylaw 27/2024 ~ River Heights Water Storage Expansion Borrowing

To provide increased water servicing capacity in South Cochrane, the River Heights Water Storage requires an expansion to accommodate new and future development. As per the Town's Off-site Levy Bylaw and Front-ending Policy, a developer or a group of developers are responsible for front-ending this infrastructure and will be repaid as levies are received.

The Town has been working collaboratively with Southbow to develop a front-ending agreement to finance the construction of the expanded reservoir. In consideration of the oversized capacity of the reservoir and the possibility that certain benefitting land may not have been advanced by the time Southbow is fully built out, Administration proposed the

Town contribute a maximum \$7.1M, with Southbow to front-end the remaining construction cost.

Council gave first reading to the bylaw. Administration will now advertise the borrowing bylaw, prior to returning to Council for second and third reading. Borrowing will occur in Q1 2025, at which time the interest rate would be finalized.

Committee Appointments

Council appointed the following public-at-large members.

Cochrane Library Board: Rhonda Newman, Bill Belsey, Chanel Simard and Kirsten Senz.

Cochrane Planning Commission: Fadi Bayoud and David Helmer.

FCSS Advisory Board: Sandy Kenney, Melanie Dickinson and Donna Devlin.

SDAB: Joanri Duursema, Logan Cox, Christopher Hutchinson and TerriAnne Halmrast.

Assessment Review Board: Penny Mellor, Jaonri Duursema, Shelley Schmidt and Lynda Gale.