

# Council highlights

## **Delegation ~ Cochrane & District Agricultural Society**

Justin Burwash, President, and Shane Want, General Manager, Cochrane & District Agricultural Society, were in attendance to present Committee of the Whole with an update on the development at the Agricultural Society in recent years. The Cochrane & District Agricultural Society (CDAS) has undergone significant change since acquiring ownership just over five years ago. Discussions were shared on what the future vision of this land will be for the next 20 years. Creating a line of communication and coordination with the Town of Cochrane will be key to the success of the next stage for the Cochrane & District Agricultural Society.

## **Ironman 70.3 Triathlon ~ Event Permit & Request for Council Direction**

Michelle Ambrose, Director, Parks and Active Living, presented an event permit application request to host the 2026 Ironman 70.3 Triathlon. The event would draw national and international visitors, reinforcing Cochrane's reputation as an outdoor recreation destination, and support the local business community during a summer weekend.

Administration will bring this item back for Council approval on November 10th prior to finalizing agreements and logistical arrangements.

## **Cochrane Library Facility Needs Assessment ~ Your Voice in Every Chapter ~ Phase 1 What We Heard Report**

Findings from Phase 1 of the Cochrane Library Facility Needs Assessment were presented to Committee of the Whole. The Facility Needs Assessment and Future Development Plan was a joint initiative between the Town of Cochrane and the Cochrane Public Library to plan for a future library and community hub that meets the needs of a growing, evolving community.

## **Parks, Culture & Active Living Master Plan ~ Phase 2 What We Heard Report**

The Parks, Culture & Active Living Master Plan is a comprehensive, non-statutory plan that will guide Cochrane's investment, programming, and decision-making across parks, recreation, arts, culture, and pathway systems over the next decade. Results of Phase 2 community engagement were presented. More than 500 residents, youth, and community organizations participated through surveys, pop-up sessions, and stakeholder meetings.

Feedback demonstrated strong alignment around balanced investment across recreation, arts and culture, and pathway connectivity — paired with community expectations for affordability, accessibility, and environmental stewardship.

These insights will inform development of the Draft Master Plan, Phase 3, to be presented to

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Council in early 2026 for review and consideration.

## **Draft 2026 Budget**

The 2026 Draft Budget builds directly on the financial principles and direction previously endorsed by Council, reflecting a deliberate balance between maintaining essential service levels, investing in infrastructure, and limiting the financial impact on residents. It also incorporates the feedback received through this spring's community budget engagement survey, where residents emphasized the importance of maintaining quality services, particularly in roads, parks, and community safety.

The Draft Budget Proposes a 3.25% municipal tax increase and has further mitigated cost impacts through a \$320,800 draw from the tax stabilization reserve and by holding reserve contributions at prior-year levels pending completion of a new fiscal framework.

Budget deliberations are scheduled for November 19, 20, 26, and 27, with final adoption proposed for December 8, 2025.