



Council highlights

Envision Cochrane 2050

Administration provided a summary of engagement feedback received in the third and final engagement phase of Envision Cochrane 2050 for Council's consideration. The draft document will be brought forward to Council for first reading on October 28.

Social trends update

At the request of Council, Administration provided an update on the social themes and trends that are being seen through Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and the Family Resource Network (FRN), as well as an overview on the programs and strategies that are offered.

Social themes include:

- Financial insecurity
- Mental health/social isolation
- Family relationships/conflict
- Support for seniors

These themes have remained relatively consistent over the past five years. However, as the population grows, there has been an increase in both the number of residents accessing services and the complexity of their issues.

2025–2027 draft budget

Administration presented the draft 2025-2027 budget in advance of budget deliberations scheduled for November 12, 13, 19 & 21 (if required).

The draft budget was prepared based on the following approved principles:

- Implementing a Fiscal Framework
- Building Civil Literacy
- Closing the Infrastructure Gap

The Draft 2025 Budget includes a 3-year operating forecast that supports the path to appropriate and efficient service delivery, along with the 5-year capital investments in critical infrastructure.

Budget highlights:

- Grant allocations held at 2024 levels
- Maintain current service levels
- Maintain reserve contributions pending development of a fiscal framework and associated financial policies
- 2% COLA
- 16 new FTEs (staff) in the following areas:
 - Strategic Services (2.0)
 - Customer & Administrative Services (1.0)
 - Financial Services (1.0)
 - Human Resources (1.0)
 - Parks & Open Spaces (5.6)
 - FCSS (1.0)
 - Planning (1.0)
 - Safety Codes (1.0)
 - Operations (1.0)
 - Water & Wastewater (1.4)
- \$109,500 draw from tax stabilization to support inflationary pressures
- Proposed revenue requirement increase of \$2,307,900 (6.14% increase in revenue requirement from 2024. Of that, 3.64% come from growth, meaning this is an inflationary budget of 2.5%)
- \$13.22 average monthly increase based on \$615,500 average assessed value

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Growth study

In 2022, the Town commissioned a growth study to better understand our rising population and how the Town will grow over the next 25 years.

The Cochrane Growth Study was created to inform Council and Administration on:

- how quickly the population is rising
- how much developable land is left within Town boundaries
- how much land will be needed to accommodate growth
- which lands are most suitable and strategic to develop in the near term
- what is the anticipated timing of full buildout of all developable lands within the current Town boundaries

A report was presented at a Committee of the Whole meeting in Q4 2023. This presentation provided Council with some additional information, including the off-site servicing infrastructure.