

# Council highlights

## **Public hearing: Bylaw 01/2025 road closure**

A public hearing took place for Bylaw 01/2025, which proposes a road closure of a surplus portion of road right-of-way (ROW) and its consolidation with the adjacent property owned by Rocky View Schools at 129 Powell Street. This road closure is part of a land transaction approved by Council in September 2024. The closure involves a small area used as a turn-around bulb and is part of a larger land exchange with RVS, which will acquire the road area while the Town acquires a portion of the laneway for public use. Next steps involve further ministerial approval and registering necessary road plans.

## **CSHO Board: Council member appointment**

Council appointed Councillor Fedeyko with Councillor Flowers as an alternate to the CSHO Board, effective February 24, 2025, with a term ending October 20, 2025. This appointment will strengthen the Town's connection to CSHO's affordable housing initiatives. A future amendment to the Procedural Bylaw will formalize annual Council appointments to the Board for consistent representation. Administration will explore this alternate appointment with the CSHO.

## **FCSS Advisory Board: Recommendations for 2025 FCSS/United Way partnership grant funding**

Council approved the grant funding allocations presented by the Cochrane FCSS Advisory Board. The allocations support local community programs and social services for 2025, funded by the Town of Cochrane and the United Way of Calgary and Area.

- Big Hill Haven Aftercare Program: \$7,000

- Cochrane Immigrant Services Committee Newcomer & New Immigrant Support and Resources: \$17,625
- Cochrane Society for Housing Options Affordable Housing Resource Worker: \$13,000
- Helping Hands Society of Cochrane and Area Food Security in Cochrane: \$24,000
- Wazin Îchinabi Ti Traditional Wellness Family Program: \$5,875
- Cochrane Public Library Empowering Future Leaders: CPL's Teen Advisory Council and Teen Summer Experience Program: \$2,500
- Seniors for Kids Society Senior Mentoring Project: \$20,000

## **Transit study report & funding opportunities**

Council endorsed the 2025 COLT Transit Plan and directed Administration to apply for the Rural Transit Solutions Fund. The proposed plan introduces a hybrid transit model with three fixed routes and on-demand service, addressing service reliability, efficiency, and growth. The plan includes a phased launch starting in March 2025.

The application for federal funding will support infrastructure upgrades, vehicle replacement, and service optimization, covering 80% of capital costs. This will help ensure Cochrane's transit system remains financially sustainable and meets future community needs without additional costs in 2025. The Rural Transit Fund application will significantly reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers over the next few years.

## **Bylaw 05/2025: Emergency management bylaw**

Council adopted Bylaw 05/2025, which amends the Emergency Management Bylaw to align with the Alberta Incident Management System (AIMS)

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and legislative updates. These changes ensure the bylaw reflects AIMS terminology, roles, and structures, and clarifies the responsibilities of emergency management agencies and committees. The amendments aim to improve clarity, eliminate redundancies, and enhance governance, ensuring Cochrane's emergency management system is efficient, up-to-date, and aligned with provincial standards.

## **RancheHouse HVAC upgrade & renovation budget request**

Council approved additional funding to support the completion of upgrades to the HVAC system and renovations to the RancheHouse.

- **\$670,000 for HVAC upgrades** to support the event space and ensure temperature, humidity, and air quality meet modern standards.
- **\$300,000 for additional renovations** to create 25 new workstations and meeting rooms on the east and west sides of the RancheHouse.

Council directed Administration to use reserve funds to support these additional project costs. The upgrades and renovations are planned for completion by Summer 2025.

## **Notice of Motion: Backyard Chickens**

Councillor Wilson brought forward a Notice of Motion directing Administration to prepare a report on the feasibility and best practices for allowing municipal backyard chickens in Cochrane prior to April 30, 2025.