

Council highlights

2026–2028 Budget Engagement

The Town's Communications team, with Consultant Advanis, presented the results garnered from comprehensive public engagement that ran throughout April, May and early June 2025. With nearly 1,000 responses collected and valuable insights gathered through a facilitated group discussion, meaningful input from residents about budget priorities and values will inform the draft 2026 – 2028 budget preparation.

Operations Centre Needs Assessment Update

Shane Hubl, Director, Operations Services, presented an update on the Operations Centre Needs Assessment, funding approved by Council in the FY 2024 budget.

For more than 35 years, Cochrane Operations has delivered essential municipal services from its 3.05-acre facility at 124 Griffin Road. Over this period, the Town's population has expanded significantly—from 4,898 residents to an estimated 38,000 today—and is projected to reach 90,000 by 2050. This sustained growth has placed increasing demands on operational capacity, staffing, fleet, and equipment. Despite multiple rounds of facility reconfiguration and site optimization, the existing location no longer supports current or anticipated service levels.

Invest Greater Calgary Update ~ MOU Request

Committee of the Whole were updated on the Invest Greater Calgary (IGC) regional economic development initiative and were introduced to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will formalize Cochrane's participation in the IGC 3-year pilot project.

Administration requested feedback prior to the MOU coming back for formal endorsement on July 14, 2025.

The IGC pilot is grounded in a shared investment and benefit model, as outlined in the IGC Partnership Charter, and is supported by a collaborative funding framework. Funding contributions for the pilot, including a \$300,000 grant from the Northern Regional Economic Development (NRED) program, are being leveraged to support foundational operations and activities of the secretariat.

Bylaw 16/2025 ~ Natural Gas Distribution System Franchise Agreement

The current ATCO Natural Gas Distribution Franchise Agreement expires on December 31, 2025, and as such, proposed Bylaw 16/2025 to enter into a renewed ATCO Natural Gas Distribution Franchise Agreement for a period of 10 years will replace the expiring agreement.

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This Agreement provides the ability for ATCO to deliver gas to properties within utility rights-of-ways within our municipal boundaries. To ensure continuity of service and compliance with regulatory requirements, Cochrane must enter into a renewed agreement.

Bylaw 16/2025 is scheduled to come for First Reading at the July 14, 2025, Regular meeting.