



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

NEWS RELEASE

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RMWB Council approves 2023 Budget

Total budget of \$573M supports the priorities in Council's Strategic Plan and key capital projects while focusing on sustainable growth

(Fort McMurray, AB – December 1, 2022) – Following three days of deliberations, the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) Council has approved a \$573M Municipal Budget.

The budget is comprised of \$468M for operations and \$105M to be transferred to reserves for capital. The capital budget is \$136M with funding from grants and 2023 revenues.

"Budget 2023 is a fiscally responsible plan that focuses on advancing the region's many priorities and key capital projects. It also continues to invest in community safety as well as the programs and services that residents rely on," said Mayor Sandy Bowman. "The budget reinforces Council's commitment to strengthen relationships and partnerships with Indigenous communities, social profit organizations and local businesses. I'd like to thank my Council colleagues, CAO Thorkelsson, Administration and everyone who participated in the budget process."

2023 Budget Highlights

The 2023 Budget continues to support regional service delivery and strategic investments to strengthen communities and the local economy.

It is aligned with Council's 2022-2025 Strategic Plan in the areas of Fiscal Management, Building Partnerships, Rural and Indigenous Communities and Relationships, Local Economy and Downtown Visualization.

The following are operating budget highlights:

- \$38.6 million in direct community support for local non-profit organizations, including municipal facility operators.
- \$42.8 million for fire and ambulance services
- \$23.4 million for parks and outdoor recreation spaces
- \$67.8 million for environmental services, includes water, wastewater and landfill services
- \$50.2 million for police support and bylaw services
- \$23.1 million for road maintenance



Capital Budget Highlights

The 2023 Capital Budget focuses on completing existing multi-year projects, while supporting new projects aligned with Council's Strategic Plan.

Notable capital projects include:

- Flood mitigation for Downtown, Waterways and Taiganova
- Rural Water and Sewer Servicing
- Rural Broadband Improvements in Fort Chipewyan, pending partnership with telecommunications provider
- Municipal North Operations Centre
- Garage and Animal Control Facility in Fort Chipewyan
- Fort McKay Community Centre
- Egress roads in Janvier and Fort McKay

Find all the capital budget details and additional project information in the Dec. 1 Council Agenda Packet.

"I would like to thank Council for their ongoing leadership and approving a budget that supports the Municipality's commitment to achieve a 5:1 tax ratio while continuing to invest in the services and projects that are important to the community," says CAO Paul Thorkelsson. "I also want to recognize municipal staff for the amount of preparation and planning over the last several months in developing the proposed budget and ensuring Council had the necessary information to make informed decisions."

For those interested in learning more about the 2023 Budget, there are resources available on the Municipal website and additional highlights will be available in the coming days at rmwb.ca/budget.

To learn more about Council's priorities in the 2022-2025 Strategic Plan, visit rmwb.ca/strategicplan

Videos of all budget meetings and the approved budget documentation can be viewed at rmwb.ca/council.

For further information or questions, please contact Pulse at 780-743-7000, 1-800-973-9663 or online at rmwb.ca/pulse.

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