



News Release

December 18, 2018

Council adopts 2019 operating and capital plans

(Rocky Mountain House, AB) – Following a three-day period of budget deliberations, Clearwater County Council approved the 2019-2021 Operating and 2019-2028 Capital Plans in a special meeting held December 17, 2018. These plans include approved operating and capital budgets for 2019.

The operating and capital plans maintain the core services that enhance Clearwater County residents' quality of life, and addresses investments in infrastructure with a strong emphasis on economic development. The 2019 operating budget includes revenues of \$51,275,519 and expenses of \$52,050,916. The capital budget includes revenues of \$12,994,121 and expenditures of \$42,411,427.

In the interest of greater financial transparency, amortization has been included in operating expenses within the 2019 budget. Amortization, or depreciation, represents the portion of the County's capital assets expected to have been used up in delivering services over the course of the next fiscal year. As amortization does not involve an outflow of cash to the organization, the budgeted cost of amortization is added back later within the financial plan. These costs have always been included within the County's financial plans but have not been as clearly identified. The approved 2018 budget has also been reformatted to provide consistency with the 2019 presentation.

"A balanced budget is essential to municipal governments' fiscal responsibility," said Reeve Jim Duncan. "Our job as Council is to ask questions and make tough decisions to ensure Clearwater County remains competitive and sustainable for long-term growth and development."

Council debated a long list of capital projects, from roads to broadband and utilized reserves to fund priority projects and to balance the current years' budget and future year projections. Some of the key initiatives include gravel road rehabilitation (\$5.0M), grading projects (\$1.5M), bridge repairs (\$3.9M), water and sewer upgrades (\$2.3M), Clearwater Broadband (\$15.0M of which \$8.0M is expected to come from provincial and federal grants), and the construction of the Condor Public Services Building to house the Condor Fire Hall (\$3.8M) along with the Leslieville Fire Hall upgrades (\$2.2M) expected to commence in 2020.

Other notable adjustments to the County's 2019 budget include the deferral of the Taimi Road paving project to 2020 to allow the material in the coulee to settle and the surfaced road infrastructure time to solidify.

Reeve Duncan continued by saying that, "paving projects and road network maintenance will continue to be a priority for this Council."



Council's 2019 Budget had many adjustments from the organizational restructure in previous year, which was reflected in reallocation of funds from one cost centre to another.

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For more information on County budget or projects underway, please visit www.clearwatercounty.ca or contact the Clearwater County office at 403-845-4444.

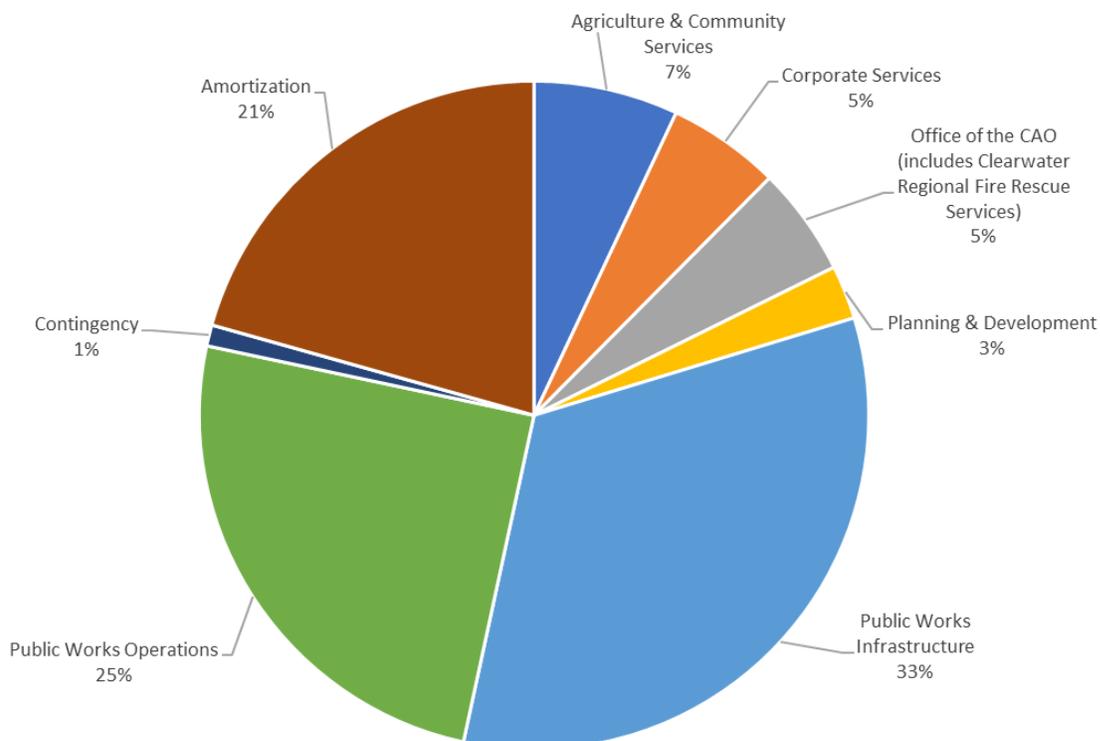


2019 Budget Highlights

Expenditures

	Operating	Capital	Total
Agriculture & Community Services	\$ 5,460,417	\$ 1,137,500	\$ 6,597,917
Corporate Services	4,544,484	598,000	5,142,484
Office of the CAO (includes Clearwater Regional Fire Rescue Services)	2,991,125	1,982,035	4,973,160
Planning & Development	2,204,657	250,000	2,454,657
Public Works Infrastructure	2,685,499	28,576,100	31,261,599
Public Works Operations	13,702,734	9,867,792	23,570,526
Contingency	962,000	-	962,000
Amortization	19,500,000	-	19,500,000
Total expenditures	\$ 52,050,916	\$ 42,411,427	\$ 94,462,343
Less Amortization	-	-	(19,500,000)
Principal payments on long-term debt	-	-	355,598
Transfers to reserves	-	-	4,565,400
Total expenditures and transfers	\$ 52,050,916	\$ 42,411,427	\$ 79,883,341

How funds are allocated by Clearwater County (total operating and capital)





2019 Budget Highlights

Sources of Tax Revenue in Clearwater County

Property taxes are the primary source of revenue for Clearwater County. Each year in the spring Council sets property tax rates to ensure service levels are aligned with Council's priorities. The actual tax rate will not be finalized until May 2019 after the assessment roll is completed for all properties in the County and all requisition amounts have been received from the Province.

	Operating	Capital	Total
Municipal tax revenues	\$ 45,834,975	\$ -	\$ 45,834,975
User fees and sale of goods	475,000	-	475,000
Government transfers	961,044	12,994,121	13,955,165
Investment income	1,520,000	-	1,520,000
Penalties & costs of taxes	225,000	-	225,000
Dev. levies, permits and licenses	57,500	-	57,500
Oil well drilling taxes	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
Other revenue	202,000	-	202,000
Total revenues	\$ 51,275,519	\$ 12,994,121	\$ 64,269,640
Transfers from reserves	1,000,000	14,613,701	15,613,701
Total funding sources	\$ 52,275,519	\$ 27,607,822	\$ 79,883,341

