



CITY OF MEADOW LAKE

2015

OPERATING BUDGET

Approach

- To provide a budget that balances the City of Meadow Lake's rate payers' interests with departments' requests to continue to provide high levels of service.
- To determine the current state of our assets in order to set out short and long term plans to address maintenance and replacement of infrastructure.
- To ensure that financial practices are sustainable today as well as in the future.

General Revenue

- 3% increase in tax revenue
- 2015 Municipal Operating Grant (MOG) increase of 3.5% (\$36,393 or a 0.9% tax increase equivalent)
- Reminder that 2014 MOG decreased 3% from 2013 (\$32,188)

Wages

- Overall 2015 wage increase of 2.29%

Gov't Services – Expenses

- CUPE Negotiation Costs of \$15,000 (Collective Agreement expires December 31, 2015)
- Recruitment and extra training for new City Clerk (in anticipation of Cheryl's retirement)
- Tax Discount budgeted at \$0 and a small amount budgeted for line of credit interest payment if necessary

Net decrease of 9.31%

RCMP – Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Increase in Enhanced Community Policing Grant (from Province) of 4.8% (\$35,000)

Expenses

- Forecast Municipal Police Contract decrease of 2.8% (forecast for 2014 was high and we anticipate being under budget for 2014)

2014/2015 expense decrease of 2.57%

Net decrease of 7.76%

Bylaw Enforcement – Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Expecting an increase in fines, both Provincial and Local

Expenses

- Bylaw Enforcement Officer will go full-time in 2015
- Increase in training and travel of \$2,100 to complete Community Safety Officer training

2014/2015 expense decrease of 1.17%

Net decrease of 40.74%

Fire Department – Revenue

- New Fire Protection Agreements need to be negotiated with Flying Dust, Meadow Lake Provincial Park and Dorintosh for 2015
- Fire Agreement Fees could change dependent on the outcome of those negotiations
- Decrease in Fire Fees for responses outside the City

Fire Department – Expenses

- Wages: a decrease in Fire Fees should see corresponding decrease in wages; however, included in this budget is:
 - \$20,000 in wages for fire fighters to install hydrant drain plugs and hydrant flow testing and possibly conduct some fire inspections and public education
 - \$9,000 to implement Phase 2 of the wage restructure
 - \$2,700 to assist Public Works with hydrant servicing
- Final installment of radios for \$12,000
- \$13,000 for Fire Hydrant Winter Maintenance

2014/2015 expense increase of 6.18%

Net increase of 19.92%

Transportation Services & Snow Removal – Revenue

- Decrease in TS other revenue in 2014 \$12,000 was budgeted for insurance proceeds to fix the roof on the mechanical building at the Public Works Yard
- No revenue for Snow Removal

Transportation Services & Snow Removal – Expenses

- \$80,000 for Infrastructure Assessment Study
- Increase in Gravel of \$25,000 (and breakdown for use)
- \$300,000 for Pavement Recap
- \$45,000 for Crack Sealant (from \$15,000 in 2014)
- \$125,000 for Dust Control which includes \$40,000 for second phase on West Service Road

TS 2014/2015 expense increase of 5.71%

TS Net increase of 7.46%

Environmental/Public Health & Planning/Development Revenue

- Multi Material Stewardship Western rebate for recycling costs estimated at \$100,000 (for more info visit <http://www.mmsk.ca/>)
- Recommending that 2015 be used as a baseline year and with garbage and recycling fees to be reassessed for 2016
- Development Permit and Building Permit fee revision to be implemented for 2015
- Profit on Land Sales revenue is all transferred to reserve

Environmental/Public Health & Planning /Development Expenses

- Planning for a 'Pitch-In' event in the spring to involve community groups, schools, teams etc. to help clean up the community (\$5,000)
- Building Inspection Contract is accounted for in revenue

E&PH 2014/2015 expense increase of 0.05%

P&D 2014/2015 expense increase of 0.60%

Parks and Recreation – Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Increase in revenue from RM agreement

Expenses

- One more installment of shale for ball diamonds at Lion`s Park (after this, it should be good for 5+ years)
- Engineering assessment of bleachers at Stampede Grounds

Library - Expenses

- Increase in Regional Library Levy of 6%
- \$5,000 to replace windows as per Library's request

Aquatic Centre – Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Decrease in revenue associated with the change in hours and staffing (no daytime lessons and pool bookings)

Expenses

- Decrease in overall wage costs due to the change in hours and staffing
- Painting the pool estimated at \$54,000
- Replacement of the DCT system is \$21,000

2014/2015 expense increase of 0.56%

Net increase of 11.49%

Water & Sewer – Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

- Increase of 5%

Expenses

- THM pilot project \$50,000
- Anticipating a decrease in chemical costs for water, although we need to see how the new chemical performs in spring before we will know the full effect
- Increase in overall expenses due to loan payment for 9th Ave Lift Station
- \$100,000 increase in contracted services to assist with valve replacement (which will be vital once Res #1 and Genset project is complete)
- \$20,000 for gravel for digs

2014/2015 expense increase of 7.38%

Net increase of 19.32%

Conclusions

- The 2015 budget includes an overall increase in expenses of \$159,259 which represents a change of 1.74%
- This is presenting knowing that there are priorities for Council in the Capital Budget