

Tax rate reduction, road work and Capital investments highlight 2025 Budget

Bathurst, Monday December 2, 2024 – Bathurst City Council approved the 2025 budget, valued at nearly \$51.7 million dollars. Overall budget allocations are set at \$38,71 million for General Operations, \$8,15 million for Water and Sewer Operations. Capital investments will be set at \$3,1 million for the General Fund and \$1,74 million for the Utility Fund.

Property Tax

The Property Tax rate in Ward 1 (old city boundary before 2023 Local Governance Reform) will be decreased by two cents, being set at \$1.7550 per \$100 evaluation. The North Tetagouche sector of Ward 2 will have a \$0.9064 rate, while the Ward 2 sectors covering South Tetagouche, Ste-Anne, Big River, and Route 134 (Miramichi Avenue extension) will have a \$0.8800 rate. The changes to the Ward 2 tax rates are part of the transition under the provincial government's Local Governance Reform, this being year three of a six-year transition.

Roadway investments

Roadway renewal accounts for a \$2 million-dollar investment. A portion of Bridge Street's roadway and infrastructure will be rebuilt at a cost of \$1.4 million. \$565,000 will be dedicated for resurfacing on Roughwaters Drive, Daniel Drive, Little River Drive and Ryan Avenue. These initiatives are over-and-above the \$5.3 million Road / Infrastructure rebuild for Ste Anne and Chaleur Streets that was planned for 2024 but delayed to 2025.

Housing

The city experienced a substantial increase in building permit activity in 2024 and expects the trend to continue in 2025 as it distributes more grants through the Federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund program. With \$318,000 projected in building permit revenue, the city will benefit further from both extra housing for citizens and a higher tax base for the municipality.

Healthy Community

Additional investments will further enhance the Healthy Community initiative. \$250,000 from the Tourism Accommodation Levy will be invested in Tourism projects. Funding for the Aquatic Centre will also increase to \$630,000. \$80,000 will also be budgeted for a corporate branding exercise, renewing the city's look to be fully inclusive and representative of its new boundaries and demographics.

Water and Sewer Services

Water and Sewer service fees will have a 2% increase, based on an increase in water supply expenses. However, the rate increase was mitigated because of decreased debt charges.

Capital Investments

Notable Capital investments include:

- Various Water and Sewer upgrades - \$325,000
- Tandem twin-steer Dump Truck - \$425,000
- Tandem Plow Truck - \$365,000
- Tractor - \$360,000
- Two Police vehicles - \$160,000
- Wildland Fire Truck - \$275,000
- Upgrades to Youghall Beach facilities, Promenade Waterfront Boardwalk, Ste Anne Street Trail crosswalk - \$140,000

- 30 -

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