

2015 Mountain View County Budget Overview

Over the next few weeks we will be highlighting in these pages Mountain View County's budget and financial statements.

This week we'll start with a very general overview of the Mountain View County 2015 Budget, a sort of Budget 101. As each week goes by, we'll delve a little deeper into different areas of the budget.

If you just want to jump right in a view the full budget and associated documents, feel free to visit us online at www.mountainviewcounty.com/budgetstatements.

Budget Basics

The 2015 Budget was approved in stages:

- On Dec. 10, 2014 Council approved the Capital and Projects Budget.
- On April 8, 2015 Council approved the Operating Budget.
- On April 22, 2015 Council approved the Tax Rate Bylaw.

Rationale: The capital budget is typically approved before the New Year. This allows construction and other projects to be tendered out when rates will be the most favourable. It also allows for appropriate planning and resource allocation by the departments. The operating budget generally is finalized in April following the provincial government's release of the school tax rates for the year. The tax rate bylaw is usually set once council is satisfied with the budget and decides best how to fund the budget.

Of Note

In 2015, Council agreed to a 1% tax rate increase for residential and farmland taxpayers. What this means is that if a residential or farmland property's assessed value didn't increase by more than market value this year, then your taxes will go up only 1% over 2014.

For non-residential taxpayers the tax rate increased 2.5%. Non-residential includes assessment categories commercial, industrial, machinery and equipment, and linear (oil and gas).

Overall expenses for 2015 will increase by \$2.2 million. Most of this increase (\$1,857,000) is due to one-time expenses to secure water access for future County use from the Mountain View Regional Water Commission and the Town of Sundre.

The capital budget for 2015 is just over \$16 million. Almost all the capital budget is used on the County's road network. This year that includes \$2.5 million in funding for bridges; an item that used to be primarily covered by grants but is currently unfunded by the province.

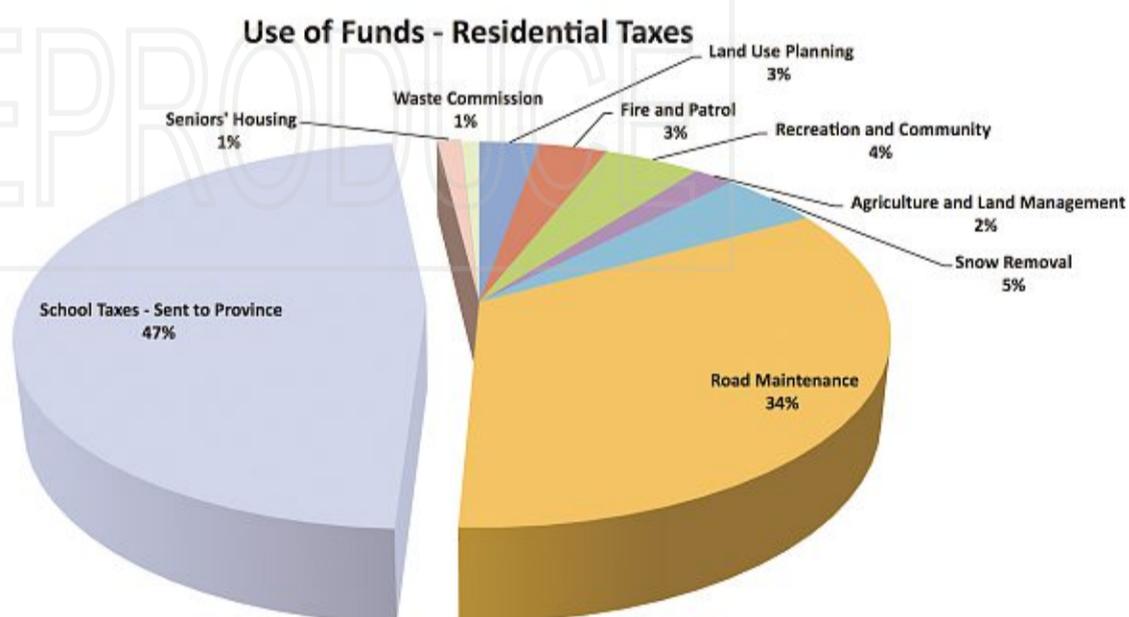
This year will also see \$3.3 million spent on upgrading and enhancing the County's fleet of work vehicles and equipment. Additionally, two new grader operator positions have been added to enhance operations.

Your Tax Dollars

Every year ratepayers ask where their tax dollars go.

The accompanying pie graph shows how

MOUNTAIN VIEW COUNTY 2015 BUDGET				
REVENUES				
	2014 BUDGET \$	2015 BUDGET \$	CHANGE \$	%
TAXES:	39,900,850	41,700,200	1,799,350	4
SALES OF GOODS & SERVICES:	6,053,130	4,322,580	(1,730,550)	(29)
GRANTS:	1,176,020	1,307,220	131,200	11
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>47,130,000</u>	<u>47,330,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>0</u>
EXPENSES				
	2014 BUDGET \$	2015 BUDGET \$	CHANGE \$	%
COUNCIL:	567,375	584,335	16,960	3
CAO SERVICES:	874,200	903,900	29,700	3
CAO NON-RECURRING	-	1,857,200		
CORPORATE SERVICES:	4,023,240	4,001,930	(21,310)	(1)
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES:	1,888,850	1,927,600	38,750	2
LEGISLATIVE, COMMUNITY & AGRICULTURAL SERVICES:	7,467,785	7,397,585	(70,200)	(1)
OPERATIONAL SERVICES:	20,498,850	20,253,850	(245,000)	(1)
REQUISITIONS:	12,079,700	12,698,600	618,900	5
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>47,400,000</u>	<u>49,625,000</u>	<u>367,800</u>	<u>1</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	(270,000)	(2,295,000)		
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES (OPERATING)	4,121,000	4,259,300		
TRANSFERS TO RESERVES	(9,746,000)	(9,192,500)		
AMORTIZATION (ADD BACK)	11,560,000	12,100,000		
FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL AND DEBT REPAYMENT	<u>5,665,000</u>	<u>4,871,800</u>		
ACQUISITION OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	(18,367,000)	(16,112,700)		
TRANSFERS FROM RESERVES (CAPITAL)	2,992,000	9,973,400		
CAPITAL GRANTS	9,710,000	1,355,000		
DEBT REPAYMENT	-	(87,500)		
NET FUNDING (Balanced Budget)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>		



what you pay in residential taxes supports the net cost (costs after grants, fees or other revenue sources) of providing the various services offered by the County. Note that almost 50 per cent of your residential taxes are collected on behalf of an external organization. This includes school taxes (Province), seniors' housing (Mountain View Seniors Housing) and waste collection (Mountain View Regional Waste Management Commission).

Of the remaining portion, the majority (34% of the overall total) goes towards maintaining and enhancing the 2,810 kilometre road network that the County's Operational Services department is responsible for. The other areas include land-use planning, fire and patrol, recreation and community, agriculture and land management, and snow removal.

Next Week

2014 Audited Financial Statements.