

Date: 16/01/2025

**To** Chair and Directors, Finance/Budget Committee:

**And To:** Murray Daly, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Kevin Erickson, Chief Financial Officer

**Date of Meeting:** Finance-Budget Committee\_Jan23\_2025

**File:** 1700-03

---

## Short Summary:

2025 – 2029 Preliminary Financial Plan for Review – Revised Jan 23, 2025

## Background:

The 2025 – 2029 Revised Preliminary Five-year Financial Plan is presented here for the committee's consideration. The total budget is now \$78,803,444 up \$1,251,267 from \$77,552,177 reported at the November 2024 Finance-Budget meeting. The tax requisition is now budgeted at \$35,404,194, a reduction of \$129,987 from the \$35,534,181 reported in November. Overall, the tax requisition now represents a 7.6% increase over 2024.

The Departments listed below have not changed since the November meeting and for information purposes are there to show their portion of the increase over 2024. Significant changes made since the November meeting are reported in greater detail.

<b>Administrative Services:</b>	9.1%, increase of \$433,615.
<b>Airport Services:</b>	0.6%, Increase of \$6,616.
<b>Contribution Services:</b>	2.5%, increase of \$12,598.
<b>Development Services:</b>	22.1%, increase of \$239,566.
<b>Emergency Planning:</b>	4.6%, increase \$46,539.
<b>Library, Culture, and Heritage Services:</b>	3.4%, increase of \$103,617.
<b>Recreation Services:</b>	6.0%, increase of \$588,716.
<b>Sewer Services:</b>	0% increase
<b>Water Services:</b>	0% increase
<b>Utility Fees:</b>	6.0% increase of \$100,926.
<b>Streetlighting:</b>	3.0% increase of \$1,480

## **Grants for Assistance** **45.7% increase of \$41,947**

The 2025 total Grants for Assistance is \$133,671 covering the grants awarded from the annual intake and an additional \$5,000.00 per director for year-round requests, a 45.7% increase over 2024 for a total of \$91,724.

**Directors EA Administration****336.7%, increase of \$41,408**

Directors EA Administration requisitions have been determined based on the amounts allocated over 2024 less processed expenses as of December 31, 2024. The requisition is now set at \$53,705, which is an increase of \$41,408 over \$12,297 in 2024.

**Environmental Services:****4.3%, increase of \$238,609**

A reduction to the CRD portion of the solid waste contract with the City of Quesnel, a reduction of planned capital works and additional use of Community Works Funds for capital purchases has reduced the requisition by \$182,708 from what was presented in November. The increase over 2024 is now \$208,808, representing a 4% increase. Solid Waste Management Planning is unchanged from November with a 10% (\$1,435) increase to build up reserves and reduce reliance on Community Works Funds. Invasive Species is also unchanged with a 10% (\$26,367) increase in the requisition to catch up with inflationary pressures and increases in labour and contract costs.

**Protective Services:****13.4%, increase of \$736,298**

As reported in November the Volunteer Fire Departments budgets have been facing significant pressure from Capital Asset replacement costs and increased operating costs relating to compliance with regulations and inflationary pressure in fuel costs, utilities, and rising insurance rates. Most departments are not able to absorb these inflationary pressures, and requisition increases averaging from 10.0% to 15.0% were budgeted.

Since the November meeting the need for an additional Regional Fire Services Supervisor arose in the Protective Services department. The cost of this position is apportioned out to the fourteen departments. Most departments were able to absorb the additional cost due to the requisition increases already budgeted. Two departments, however, because of already tight budgets, required an upward adjustment to their requisition to absorb the additional cost.

Interlakes VFD requisition was increased by 2% for an additional \$9,602 and Kersley VFD was increased 0.5% for an additional \$1,011.

In summary the total Requisition increase for 2025 contained in the 2025 – 2029 Five Year Provisional Financial Plan is now \$2,491,009 overall, down from \$2,620,996 reported in November for an overall Tax Requisition increase of 7.6% over 2024.

The Community Works Funds agreement with UBCM has been renewed for another 10-year period. The 2025 – 2029 Five Year Financial Plan includes an allocation of \$3,094,184 for 2025 up \$1,122,000 from what was reported in November. For the years 2026 thru 2029, \$2,650,500 is budgeted which is a reduction of \$91,500 from the \$2,742,000 reported in November. This should use up the unused and unallocated amounts from the prior program, however greater attention will be needed going forward to ensure funds received under the new program are spent within five years of their receipts.

Additional details are provided in the attachments to this Memorandum and contain the information that will be used for public consultation and feedback.

**Attachments:**

Overview of the 2025-2029 Five Year Financial Plan

2025 Expected Revenues and Expenses

2024 vs 2025 Comparative Tax Requisition Changes Summary

2024 vs 2025 Comparative Ad Valorem Tax Requisition Rate Details

2024 vs 2025 Utility Fee Summary

2025 – 2029 Financial Plan Community Works Fund Allocations

Tax Impacts to Representative Area Properties

2025 – 2029 Detailed 5-year Plan