

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Richard Freymond, Commissioner, Finance & Corporate

Support Services

Meeting Date: August 6, 2024

Report: 2025 Draft Budget Impacts Summary, Report FCSFS24-020

Subject

A report to provide a high-level summary of the Draft 2025 Budget impacts as presented by the Treasurer on June 11 and 27, 2024.

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report FCSFS24-020 dated August 6, 2024, of the Commissioner of Finance and Corporate Support Services as follows:

That Report FCSFS24-020, 2025 Draft Budget Impacts Summary be received for information.

Background

On June 11 and 27, 2024, staff made presentations to General Committee about the 2025 preliminary budget information of each department. The purpose of these presentations was to inform members of Council about the issues the City is facing for the 2025 budget and the impacts these issues will have on the All-Inclusive Rate increase and property tax requirement.

At the end of those presentations, Council decided to revisit the presentations and a 2025 draft budget guideline in the August cycle. This report provides a summary of the impacts presented by the Treasurer to aid in Council's discussion.

Chart 1 is the same information as presented by staff on June 27, however it has been separated into two categories: Status Quo and Incremental Issues. These items are based on early information and assumptions about the 2025 budget requirements and impacts which will be refined as the budget process continues and more information becomes available.

As seen on Line 32 of Chart 1, the preliminary estimates at this stage of the 2025 draft budget process reflect that to maintain the Status Quo levels of service in 2025 would require an increase to the All-Inclusive Rate of 8.44%. To fund the identified Incremental Items would require an additional increase of 1.84%, as shown on Line 52, for a total increase of 10.28%.

Chart 1

Prelim	inary Estimates of 2025 Anticipated Budget Impacts						
Ref	Description	2025 Incremental Adjustments to Base Budget Preliminary Amounts \$	All-Inclusive Impact %				
Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4				
1	Status Quo						
2							
3	On-going Issues						
4	Compensation	2,840,200	1.33%				
5	Employee Health benefits increase (initial est.)	2,100,000	0.98%				
6	Annualization of positions approved in 2024	410,000	0.19%				
7	Annualization of approved services/programs in 2024	1,147,000	0.54%				
8	Impact of 2024 reserves on base	1,510,000	0.71%				
9	Maintain existing Tax Ratios	3,100,000	1.45%				
10	Sub-total On-going Issues	11,107,200	5.19%				
11							
12	Other Issues						
13	PW Depreciation True up	900,000	0.42%				
14	General inflation	750,000	0.35%				
15	True up WSIB cost	400,000	0.19%				
16	Fuel prices	100,000	0.05%				
17	Other	500,000	0.23%				
18	Police ask (est 3%)	1,052,000	0.49%				
19	Outside Agencies	231,000	0.11%				
20	Subtotal Other Issues	3,933,000	1.84%				
21	Total Operating Cost Pressures	15,040,200	7.03%				
22							
23	Capital Financing Impacts						
24	Increase to Capital Levy (Inflation)	69,000	0.03%				
25	Replenish Levy/FRMP CL (over 5 years) used in 2020 budget	162,000	0.08%				
26	Capital Financing Policy 1% - used for pre-committed capital	2,000,000	0.94%				
27	Wastewater Protection - Storm & Sanitary	620,000	0.29%				
28	Replenish CL reduced in 2024 Sherbrooke St project motion	150,000	0.07%				
29	DC Debt Bridge Financing Funded through Legacy Reserve (\$3,805,000 1.78%)	0	0.00%				
30	Total Capital Financing Impacts	3,001,000	1.40%				
31							
32	Impact of Status Quo Items on Net Requirement and All-Inclusive Rate	18,041,200	8.44%				

Chart 1 (continued)

Ref	Description	2025 Incremental Adjustments to Base Budget Preliminary Amounts \$	All-Inclusive Impact %				
Col 1	Col 2	Col 3	Col 4				
33							
34	Incremental Items						
35							
36	Other Issues						
37	Housing and Homelessness	1,800,000	0.84%				
38	Contingency	150,000	0.07%				
39	Total Operating Cost Pressures	1,950,000	0.91%				
40							
41	Capital Financing Impacts						
42	Capital financing Policy at 1.00% used for uncommitted capital	138,200	0.06%				
43	Unfinanced Debt servicing cost true up (total \$1,784,000 0.83%)	784,000	0.37%				
44	Total Capital Financing Impacts	922,200	0.43%				
45							
46	Sub-total Total Net Requirement Increases before Other Considerations	2,872,200	1.34%				
47							
48	Other Considerations						
49	Fairhaven Expansion Operating Impact - initial provision	1,069,100	0.50%				
50	Total Other Considerations	1,069,100	0.50%				
51							
	Impact of Incremental Items on Net Requirement and All-						
52	Inclusive Rate	3,941,300	1.84%				
53		<u> </u>					
54	Total Impact of Status Quo and Incremental Items on Net Requirement and All-Inclusive Rate	21,982,500	10.28%				

Capital Financing Policy

The City's Debt Management and Capital Financing Plan as adopted by Council with Report CPFS12-011 and amended with Report CLSFS21-024 and Report CLSFS23-033, includes the following recommendation:

c) That, to phase-in the new maximum debt limit the total annual amount of new taxsupported debt charges and any increase in the capital levy provision be limited so that the impact on the residential all-inclusive tax increase does not exceed 1% per year.

Council has approved a number of capital projects to be funded from the 2025 and future budgets. Appendix A of this report includes a summary of the pre-committed capital projects. The debt servicing costs of these pre-committed tax-supported projects will use \$2 million of the 1% increase in capital financing, as shown on Line 26 of Chart 1. The remainder of the 1% increase, which amounts to \$138,200 as shown in the Incremental Items on Line 42, is available for other capital projects to be approved as part of the 2025 budget. This would support approximately \$1.5 million of tax-supported debt.

Next Steps

Under the Strong Mayor Powers legislation, staff receive direction about the budget from the Mayor. At this time, the Mayor advises that he is contemplating not exercising his delegated authority in this context and would prefer Council reach a consensus about a guideline increase for the 2025 budget. Should Council determine a guideline for the 2025 draft budget, the recommendation would be made to the Mayor, requesting that he take it into consideration in providing direction to staff about the preparation of the budget.

With the many significant and competing demands on the 2025 budget, it is important that the Levels of Service remain the focus as the key means to reduce the property tax requirement and the 2025 budget.

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Initiative: Pursue service excellence in governance to support long-term

fiscal sustainability of the City while respecting the impact of

decisions on taxpayers.

The annual budget is a key tool in determining the fiscal sustainability of the City as it impacts the service levels of all City operations as well as determines the property tax burden on all taxpayers.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget and financial implications to receiving this report.

Attachment

Appendix A - Pre-Committed Capital Projects for 2025 and Future Budgets Submitted by,

Richard Freymond Commissioner, Finance and Corporate Support Services

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2025 and Future Capital Pre-Commitments

	Project name	Report Reference / Council Approval Date	Fotal 2025 ommitment	otal 2026 ommitment	Total 2027 Commitment		Total 2028 Commitment	
1	Canadian Canoe Museum - Capital Build	CLSFS21-021	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$	500,000	\$	500,000
2	Lansdowne Street West - Spillsbury Drive to Clonsilla Avenue	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 9,100,000	\$ 1	\$	1	\$	-
3	Brealey Drive - Lansdowne Street to Sherbrooke Street	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 10,580,000	\$ 1	\$	1	\$	-
4	Otonabee River Trail - Del Crary Park to Little Lake Cemetery	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 2,660,000	\$ 1	\$	1	\$	1
5	Curtis Creek Watershed Improvements	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 940,000	\$ 1	\$	1	\$	
6	Effluent Disinfection Revitalization and Expansion	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	
7	Replace Digester #1 & 2	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 5,000,000	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
8	Aviation Fuel Facility	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 850,000					
9	Aircraft Storage Hangar	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 700,000					
10	Bonnerworth Park Redevelopment	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 2,390,000					
11	Bonnerworh Park Redevelopment - Road Improvements	Dec. 11, 2023 with 2024 Budget	\$ 250,000					
12	Lansdowne Street Rehabilitation - Park to Otonabee River	LSRS24-001 (Closed Session Report)	\$ 2,000,000	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-
23	Total		\$ 41,970,000	\$ 7,500,000	\$	3,500,000	\$	500,000
24	Tax Supported		\$ 21,113,500	\$ 500,000	\$	500,000	\$	500,000
25	Non-Tax Supported		\$ 20,856,500	\$ 7,000,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	-