

December 20, 2011 / For Immediate Release

City Budget 2012

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – On December 19, 2011, Council approved the City of Airdrie’s 2012 operating budget which will result in a property tax rate increase of 2.74 per cent or an increase of \$3.33 per month for an average home in Airdrie. The 2012 \$31 million capital budget was approved at the December 5 City Council meeting.

“Airdrie residents expect safe communities, quality recreation facilities and more parks amongst the many other services we provide. Council believes this budget respects taxpayer funds and is a balanced approach to maintaining existing service levels while addressing future growth,” says Mayor Peter Brown.

Operating Budget Highlights – increase of \$1.3MM over last year

The City’s \$78.3MM operating budget will provide services in 2012. Based on an estimated population of 45,841 in 2012, this equates to \$1708 per resident – a decrease of \$3 from 2011. General Operations revenue is budgeted at \$59MM – an increase of \$5.2MM from 2011. Utility Operations reflects gross revenue of \$19.2MM, an increase of 3 per cent from 2011.

Growth impacts on operating budget

- Annexation doubles the size of Airdrie with 12,640 acres of land
- Community Needs Assessment indicates that citizens would like improvements to recreation/facilities, more parks and better transit
- Three fire halls (up from two) will be operational in 2012
- New RCMP facility opens in 2012 with two additional police officers and an administrative assistant

Results of growth impacts

- Salaries, wages and benefits represent 43 per cent of operating budget
- 18.5 new staff required to support annexation, growth and Council’s Strategic Priorities
- Personnel costs increase by \$3.26MM in 2012

Capital Budget Highlights - \$31MM in 2012

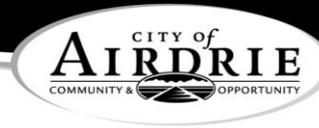
The City annually prepares a ten-year capital plan for consideration. The current year is adopted by City Council as part of the City’s budget process. Annually, the capital program identifies revenue sources and expenditures for the coming year and the next nine fiscal years.

Major capital spending

- Genesis Place Phase III
- engineering for Gateway fire hall
- renovations to 23 East Lake Hill, the city’s public works/parks facility

Major roads projects

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- upgrading of 24th Street
- arterial roadway rehabilitation
- engineering for the design of a pedestrian overpass at Morningside

The City first looks to fund capital projects with grants, developers contributions, or other sources such as community fundraising where applicable, as part of its broad capital improvement plan. When such funds are insufficient, the City will use debenture financing and/or draws on other reserves.

The City's self-imposed limit for tax supported debt payments is less than 10 per cent of the estimated net general fund operating revenue. The projected percentage of tax supported debt payments in 2012 is 5.7 per cent of operating revenue.

The complete City of Airdrie 2012 Budget will be available in the near future at www.airdrie.ca/finance under Budget.

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