



## NEWS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

## Town of Olds Approves 2026 Budget Focused on Infrastructure Renewal, Community Safety, and Long-Term Sustainability

*December 10, 2025* **Olds, Alberta** – The Town of Olds Council has approved the 2026 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets, allocating \$37.3 million for operations and \$2.88 million for capital projects. This year's allocation reflects an increase of 2.6% over 2025's operating budget. The 2026 budget reflects Council's ongoing commitment to renewing critical infrastructure, enhancing community services, and supporting a vibrant, sustainable future for residents .

### Public Feedback & Engagement

Each year the public's response to the annual Budget Survey - released in the spring and summer - help guide the development of the upcoming budget, including the 2026 Budget. This year's Budget Survey had 318 responses, and Council used these responses to determine public opinion on key priorities.

The 2027 Budget Survey will be released in Spring/Summer 2026.

### Infrastructure Renewal Remains a Top Priority

Renewing and maintaining the Town's infrastructure remains a top priority. In 2026, the Town is investing:

- **\$800,000** in renewing aging underground infrastructure on 57 Avenue.
- **\$1 million** toward the water loss and inflow and infiltration program, including Phase 3 of the Water Meter Replacement Program and sanitary main relining.
- **\$230,000** in increased maintenance toward fire hydrants, water valves, back alleys, and trails.
- **\$110,000** in increased maintenance for the water and wastewater system.

These investments strengthen the Town's foundation and support reliable services for residents today and in the future .



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### Recreation Facilities and Parks

- **\$557,000** is being invested into the Sportsplex as part of a 10-year renewal plan, ensuring the facility continues to provide high-quality recreational opportunities for users.
- **\$24,000** to design a solution for erosion issues at the Off Leash Dog Park.
- **\$22,000** toward fencing repairs at the OR Hedges ball diamonds.

### Public Safety – RCMP

The addition of a Public Service Employee (PSE) at the Olds RCMP detachment was a key priority for Council in this budget. Administrative roles free up time to ensure Officers can spend more time on front-line community policing, directly supporting the public safety priorities identified through the budget engagement survey.

### Changes in Property Taxes and Utility Rates

Final decisions on property tax increases will be made in the spring.

Utility rates will see a modest increase in 2026, reflecting higher water costs from the Water Commission and further investment in ongoing maintenance of our water distribution system.

- Average Water Change: +\$5.73/month
- Average Wastewater Change: -\$0.95/month

Total impact for the average household: +\$4.78/month

### Investing in Our Community's Future

The 2026 Budget is focused on building a stronger, more resilient Olds for everyone. Investments in our infrastructure will support growth and reduce water loss, allowing us to rebuild our financial health and care for the infrastructure people depend on everyday concentrating on informed decisions and long-term planning to address future needs, we are ensuring our community remains a vibrant, safe and a great place to live for years to come.

For more information on the 2026 Budget, visit [www.olds.ca](http://www.olds.ca)

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