



Budget 2020  
What We Heard  
Date Report  
October 17, 2019  
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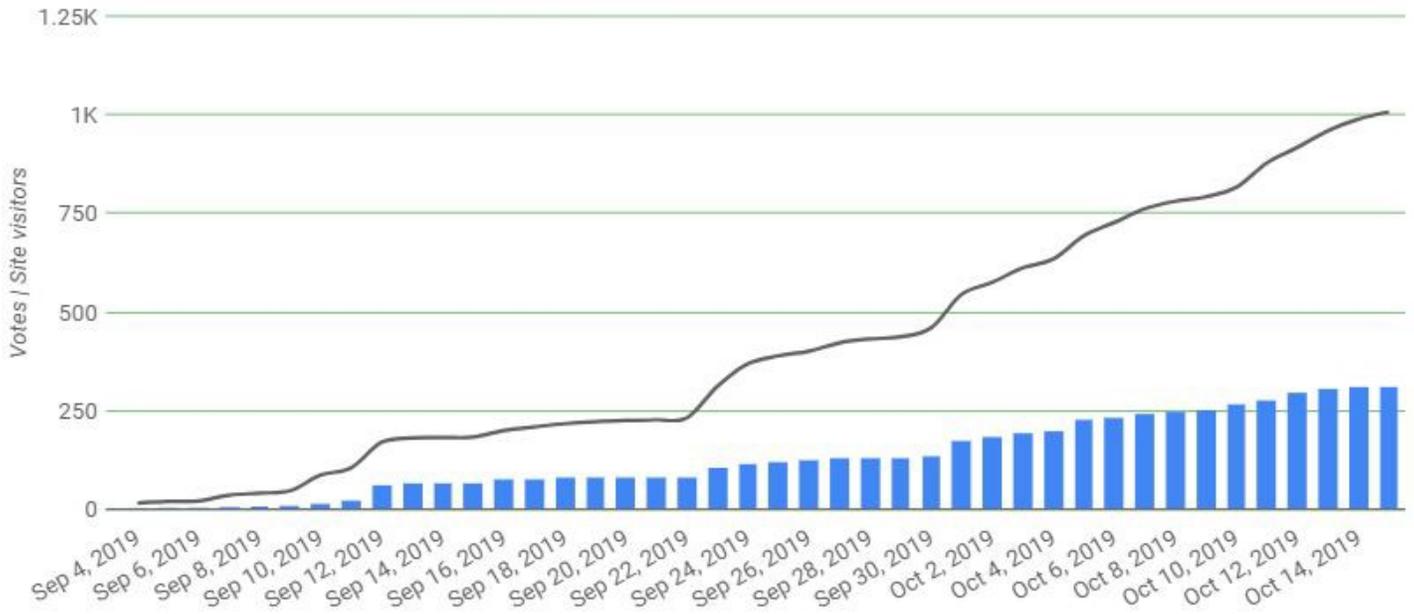


# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

Votes: 315 (30% of visitors)

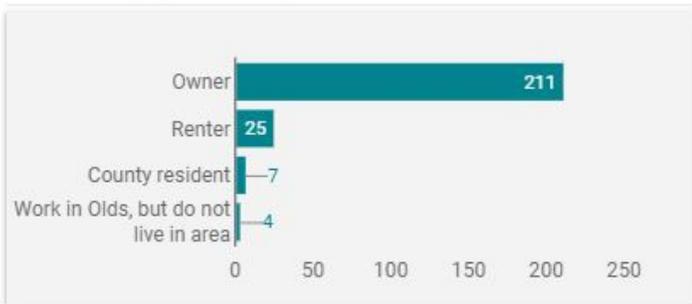
Site Visitors: 1,041

Date Range: 5<sup>th</sup> September to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019

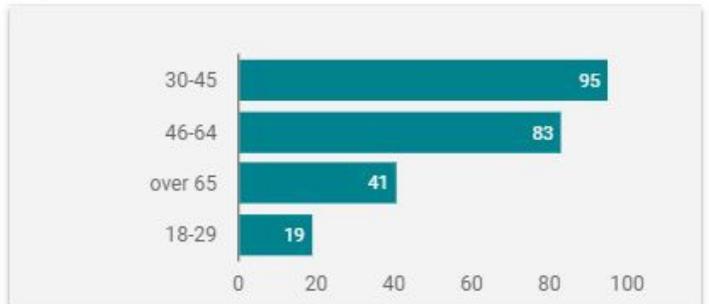


## Demographics

Which category describes you?



Age

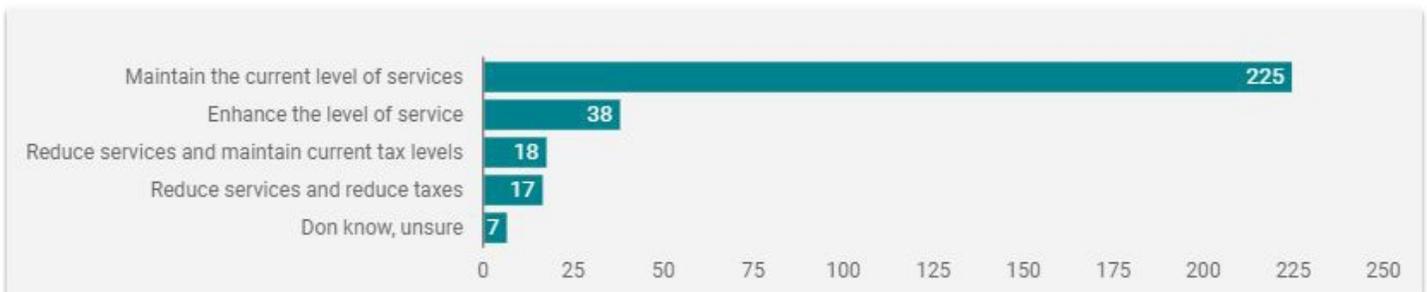




# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

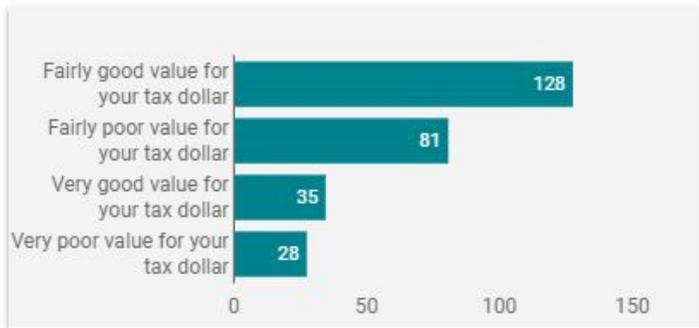
## Fire Services

Which of the following tax strategies do you support for Fire Services?

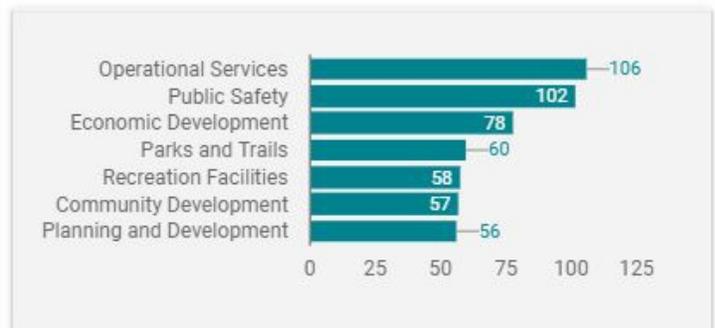


## General Questions

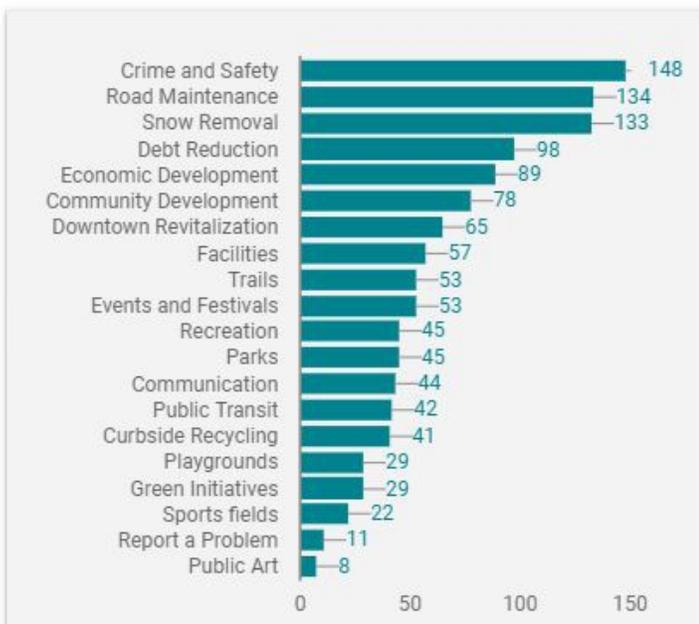
Thinking about programs and services you receive from the Town of Olds, which value do you see you get for your tax dollar?



For services primarily funded directly from your tax dollars, what area do you feel should receive the greatest attention from your municipal leaders?



Thinking about future priorities for the Town of Olds over the next 3-5 years, what do you feel should be the top five areas of focus?

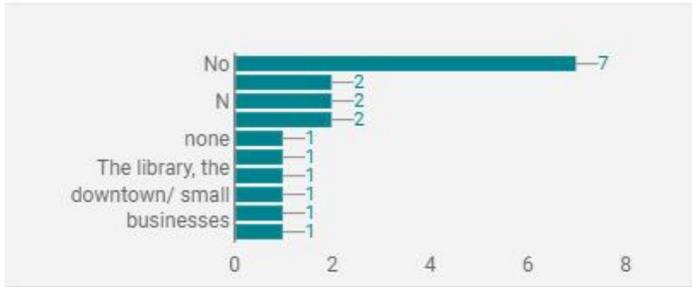




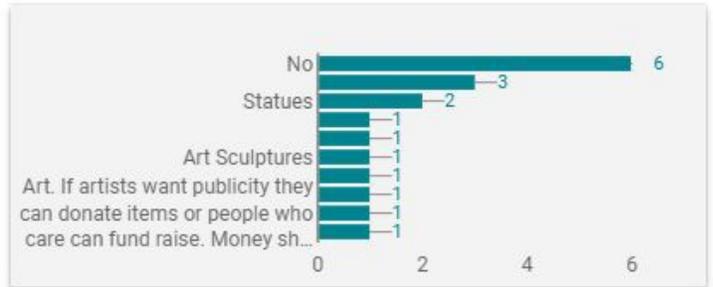
# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

For the following 2 charts, see data tables for complete analysis

Are there services that you would like to see expanded?

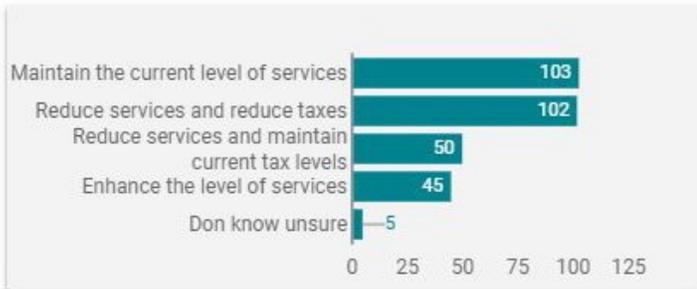


Are there services you would like to see reduced or eliminated?



## Parks and Trails

Which of the following tax strategies do you support for the beautification of Olds?

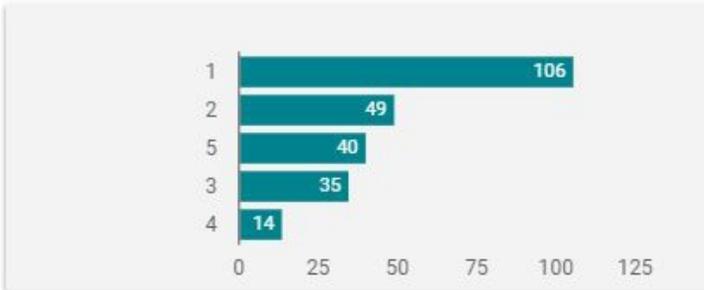




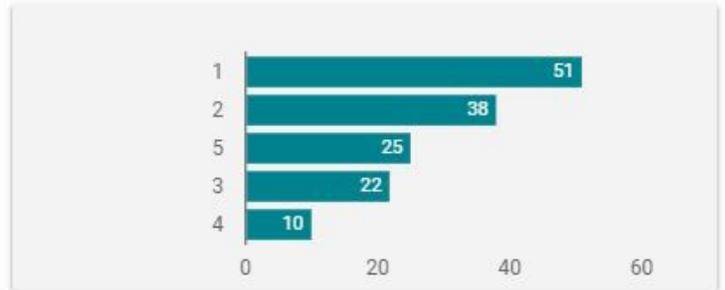
# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

## Recreation Facilities

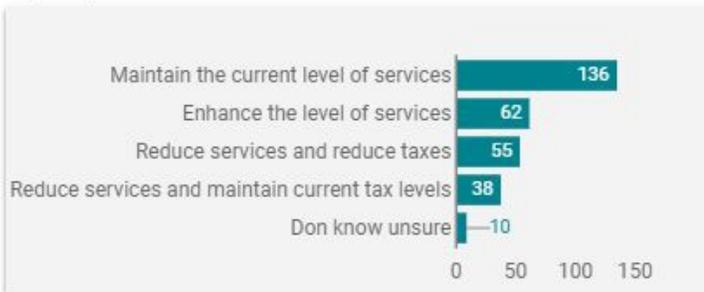
On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree. do you feel there is a need for a third indoor ice?



On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is strongly disagree and 5 is strongly agree would you be willing to support a tax increase to construct a new ice surface?

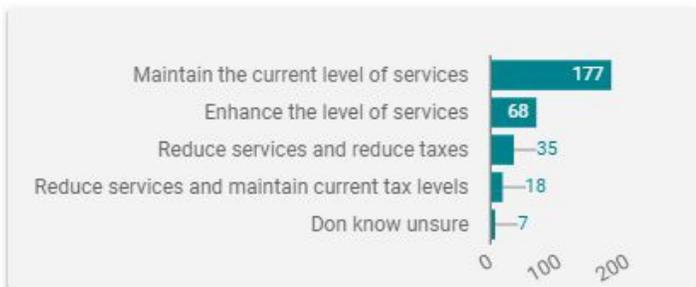


Which of the following tax strategies do you support for the Olds Sportsplex?



## Roads

Which of the following tax strategies do you support for Roads?





# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

## General Questions Details: Are there any services you would like to see expanded?

Snow removal could use a lot of common sense improvement.
57th St. running east and west beside the Holy Trinity school is horrible! The traffic travels much too fast and someone is going to be badly hurt one of these days. There are numerous children and adults alike that use the Holy Trinity Park playground, every day of the year almost and we need to curb the traffic that runs through here. We need a more visible crosswalk and perhaps make it a playground zone 24/7 as well as possibly speed bumps
More activities for young families
Ice surface. Splash park Ball diamond completion. Outdoor rinks
No, I really appreciate what we have and would like to see the present facilities be well maintained.
Plan for additional health facilities to accommodate growing population instead of more housing especially condo's.
Anything that world see kids occupied at low costs
Ice times for Rec - we have to travel to another town, Bowden and we pay taxes in Olds. I we should have to pay more tax for our kids to have the right to play and have equal time for our kids to play a sport!
More parks and more trails.Upkeep of the splashpark.
I am lucky to call Olds home.It is a beautiful community and we should all be proud!
Policing
Would like the splash park repaired & operating
Unknown
Roads
Fix up the play grounds. The one west of the ag. Society needs attention.
More summer reprogramming, dog park openbut don forget about it.
Garbage/recycling service
Pickleball
We need another street sweeper and more of that, it really helps our town appear tidy.
Get the splash park up and running again.Increase library donations.
Garbage! Why are we adding more flowers that are so temporary, when this town really needs a overhaul on the garbage schedule. Flies and maggot covered garbage cans are a disgusting problem. I think a rotation following would be muchbetter: Garbage- week 1 Recycling- week 2 Garbag- week 3 Compost- week 4
Snow removal. Our cul-de sac is done once a year. It is horrible trying to get to work.
Rodeo and fair with small midway that the Ag Society/town used to have. Smaller towns across central are able maintain and host events to this day. why canOlds? An area set for large trucks/truckers can park/eat/sleep while passing through town, everywhere seems to be no parking areas
Sidewalk. Ours is in bad shape but the town hasn fixed it yet
No.
Better winter road maintenance
no the town spends enough on services, if they want torearrange some of their priorities for services provided that would be acceptable, but no new spending



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Would like to see the Olds Fair come back or more summer festivals. More Decorative lighting and activities in Uptowne. Lights by Coop. Outdoor skating surface.
Public safety and Public behavior. It is sickening to see the amount of drunk college students walking and drinking and shouting profanity by our house on an almost daily bases and nothing is being done about it.
1-walking trails around town to connect for a complete circuit and trails of different lengths. The town needs more trails to connect and not just in a neighbour hood but all around town. 2-The town should clean the city sidewalks themselves, A lot of older or young people cannot shovel snow. Every other city has a snow removal plow for sidewalks. 3- The green bin should be collected more often especially in the fall when clean up for winter is going on.
Better snow removal
Road maintenance
We need better up keep on our roads in town, better planning on when these take place! Sidewalks need improvements as well, again better planning around timing!!!
Garbage pickup at least every 2 weeks
Trails/bike paths/lanes that cohesively and safely connect north, south, east and west olds. Also crime & safety.
I have enjoyed the beautiful planters all over the town.They are food for my soul.
Snow removal from my cul-de-sac more frequently
The town of Olds seems to above and beyond what is required of a town, except in practical areas
No
no
Support for amateur football. As the head coach of the peewee Huskies, I find it so disheartening that there is such minimal support and recognition for our organization, compared to hockey, lacrosse, soccer, baseball, etc
Economic development, Communication, vistor info and marketing Olds. Uber and Skip the dishes in Olds.
Winter snow removal in residential areas
I would like to see more walking and biking paths as well as a focus on infill and brownfield developments instead of building out. Planning a town more effectively so people can walk to the store instead of having to drive everywhere. Revitalizing Main Street and encouraging small business to flourish. Also the enforcement of apartments, business and the every day person to be recycling and composting.
I think that snow removal should be increased as there are times where it borders on impassable on certain streets.
Better snow removal and a correct and updated Snow removal / bus root.Two buses travel down Silverthorn Road every day twice a day and yet our road is not marked as a priority / bus route.Black bins picked up every other week.



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Street sweeping should be done properly in the spring which may require a few passes. Also it should be done after events at the cow palace or auction mart which drag huge amounts of mud and rocks onto the road. Truly embarrassing to see our streets in such disarray. This entire summer the roads and sidewalks were so covered in rocks it was impossible to do any activities such as rollerblading or skateboarding. The second time the street sweepers were out was the day before a snowfall, so the plow trucks came and spread rocks all over again, what a waste! I would gladly volunteer my time to drive the sweeper truck in the summer so that we don't have to live in a slum.

By-laws enforcement of part 4 CSB could be expanded. Lots of unsightly property, overhanging trees and blocked stop signs that seem to be ignored. Or save the money and get rid of the bylaw guys if they aren't performing their duties.

I know everyone would love to see garbage pickup more frequently. If our recycling does go to a sorting facility then information about proper recycling methods should also be provided to the public (eg. see City of Calgary Recycle Right program).

Outdoor skating areas - other towns in the county have them, so not sure why we cannot get them to work in our town...

Enhancement of Early Childhood supports.

le Social Connections for parents, guest speakers and events supporting young families, printed materials.

Community hall or location for dance studios to train out of- not enough options or availability in this town

green bins need to be-picked up more regularly between April and Oct, rather than having bigger bins-at corner, that get filled with tree branches

When speaking of the green spaces and paths, I enjoy all but have noticed that maintenance on the paths are limited at best. Better attention can and should be paid to low, over hanging branches that pose a safety risk to users.

Connect all walking paths.

Arena renovated

Cheaper water and fix leaky pipes

services supporting family with young children and seniors

Pick up garbage more than once every 3 weeks

Safety and security of the town specially for our children.

Cleaning up after major snowfalls. Our street 58 Avenue very seldom is cleaned in winter

none

Transportation to Red Deer or Calgary, especially treatment centres for cancer. specialists, appt., etc

Snow removal could be better on secondary streets. Change garbage pickup and recycling pickup to every second week in winter and eliminate green bin pickup in winter, they don't fill up as fast in winter and whatever is in there can't rot when it's frozen.

Green initiatives and art and culture. Particularly like the art common and statues on highway 27, west end of town.

Snow removal and potholes. Olds. Is a great community and we love the events and activities planned in uptown and at centennial park. Overall no complaints.

I would like to see a grant for small businesses trying to attract and move workers to Olds.

Snow removal

We would love to see an outdoor ice rink, in the summer it could be used for street hockey. I would love it if we had tennis courts.

Event activities that include people who do not have families or aren't geared toward seniors and children. What about the 20 - 40 year olds?

Trails

SNOW. REMOVAL.

Bike lanes and public bike racks downtown

Do away with angle parking because it is so unsafe

Additional black bin days, perhaps reducing frequency of green bin pick up during "off" season



# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

A bit more snow clearing in the winter on residential roads; and a place for soil/sod disposal and branch disposal somewhere in town or nearby like you do for the leaves and grass trimmings green bins to save driving all the way to Didsbury with them!
Also could there be a potential tax incentive or water bill break for people who install stormwater mitigation strategies such as Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels, or even permeable pavement so that there is less burden on the water management system?
Taxes being LOWERED!
Would like to s
A community bus for Olds
Increase black garbage pickup to what it use to be 4-5 years ago. Town bylaw should be writing more speeding and distracted driving ri
We need an indoor soccer/Lacrosse field for year round enjoyment not another ice surface
Initiatives to introduce affordable housing for young working adults
Snowremoval
Garbage/Recycling pickup
Garbage pick up
N
Recycling facilities, added to existing facilities, for used oil, used oil filters, and anti-freeze. Why do we have to drive down to Didsbury? Some businesses actually burn used oil for heating.
no - town spends too much on unnecessary items as it is
Outside skating rink, outside basketball court, more connectors for bikes to ride around town and trails for walking, running and biking (preferably with some trees around). More frequent Black bins pick up in summer. A place for local small businesses, restaurants to show and sell their products on weekends.
Dog Bylaws
More support for other non profit sports in town. There is more than just hockey! re is talk or building more sports facilities why not be more inclusive to all sports why not some indoor soccer fields or space for gymnastics.
Parks and Trails
There should be more entertainment for all ages brought into town that is not a bar or sports related.
Bicycle lanes and racks downtown
Trail systems in olds.
Communication in such areas as roadwork, snow removal and street sweeping. The current notification of services is extremely inadequate. The technology is available to send text notification and/or email notification etc by areas to be serviced. The current signage placement is woefully inefficient and should be at a minimum of a week before the actual work is performed.
off leash areas for dogs
Garbage services and road maintenance.
The museum is highly unrecognized. They need a new building with more room. Most of the town doesn't know it exists. The library could also use more funding.
Increase frequency of garbage and compost pick up especially during the summer Decreasing the cost of residential water and waste water. THE COST NOW IS UNBELIEVABLE
Waste collection should be addressed. Once every three weeks is not frequent enough for the waste and recycling bins.
Splash park fixed, public skating not just for an hour, better roads, more library budget and museum, lower homebase business
Helpfo



# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

We need additional garbage/recycle pickup. Once every 3 weeks is simply just not enough. Recycling is always full...which is great people are recycling. Garbage in the summer is absolutely gross...whether the bin is full Or not, the fact that on the hot weeks it is sitting there rotting for 3 weeks at a time, is just a breeding ground for nastiness and maggots.
Yes more road maintenance and sideways and better water drainage system and cleaning.
None
The library, the downtown/ small businesses
Fix the splash park.
Splash park for kids
None reduce Taxes and staffing levels.
Sidewalks repaired where most needed. Please come check out the one at the east end of the Olds Elementary School...it's so sad when you see someone pushing a wheelchair on it never mind trying to walk on it. Also, more walking and bike paths. ...it's amazing how many citizens use these throughout the year. More snow removal.
Snow plowing residential areas is absolutely horrendous. This needs to be improved.
#NAME?
Overnight patrols.
Fully repair the splash park that the community fundraised for. More lights at the skate park to reduce the risk of poor behavior. Create a place where community youth are allowed to spray paint/graffiti. I feel this will reduce the amount of vandalism in town.
There is dire need for a 3rd ice surface and some proper seating on the auxiliary ice. The fact that the splash park was closed all year is unacceptable.
Community engagement, walking paths, town beautification, #27 corridor improvements and beautification (it's the ugliest part of this town). Economic development needs to be a primary focus. There are no middle class jobs in Olds and young people are moving out and reluctant to move in.
We've been living in the States for 3 years, and upon returning, there was a visible "tiredness" to the town. Some road signs were damaged, the paint of many crosswalks were faded as well as stop-lines, handicap "blue" parking, etc. Years ago, we noticed this in Didsbury often, and appreciated how these things were well-maintained in Olds. Road lines in front of the elementary school are very faded too, or non-existent. I'd love to see this improved.
Garbage disposal services reworked, with garbage pickups every 2 weeks,
The lines painted on town roads needs to be addressed. Having a new driver it is hard for them to be confident driving without lines and majority of the roads in Olds.
The splash park should have an actual wading pool attached to it.
Community programs that don't cost ridiculous amounts of money for a family to attend. My family would have loved to attend Oldstoberfest but unfortunately could not afford the \$200 in admission.
I would like to see more parks and playgrounds throughout Olds.
If you are going to expand services. .... then there needs to be a trade off. This town and administration can not continue to be all things to all people and satisfy everybody's wants, needs and desires. If we are going to provide enhanced maintenance for users of the rotary ball park, then users of those facilities should be prepared to pay higher rental and/ or maintenance fees. People complain about snow removal. ... Here is a simple suggestion, get snow tires. Olds is in a snow belt. There are no services that require expansion unless the town adopts user fee model.



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Olds has many beautiful park spaces, but the Main Street is dry concrete and all attractive. Adding green to the Main Street would improve the look and attract more customers
Support of classes for technical training, such as computers.
Trails. Maintenance seems limited. Signage (especially for those not knowing the trails system or town) and continuity seems lacking. Love that we are developing culture and arts to be displayed by the Town. Maybe a bit more at the dog park - incrementally add pieces/improvements. Same for our playgrounds, there are 2-3 that need improvements otherwise really well-maintained playgrounds. Keep up on the weeds along trails and in shrub beds. Needs to be lots of work on our parks trees and scrub beds.
Reduce crime
I would like to see Garbage pick up more frequent and compost pick up less frequent. waiting 3 weeks in the hot summer sun for your garbage to be picked up is insane and gross.
Programs for big kids... there is lots of stuff for littles, but nothing for older kids
Police and Enforcement Garbage and Recycling pick up more frequently Full day school zones not tiered school zones.
We need to start to invest in the sportsplex it is heavily aged and beginning to become rundown!
Historical. (Museum)
Police
Beach volleyball
Garbage pick up every two weeks.
3-way stop sign at corner of Aquatic centre and Auction mart intersection!!! It is a terrible corner - accidents waiting to happen. Also, the street light on intersection of hwy 27 and 2A needs a MUCH longer turning light!!! Only 2 - 3 cars can get through at present, making it a very long wait at peak hours!
More night
1. Better attention to boulevards through town, why not trees as other towns have, rather than the unsightly and poorly planned monotonous-colored petunias in planters (hwy 27), and please hire someone to clean garbage out of existing shrub beds, it's not enough to create them, they have to be regularly freshened up....if towns in Montana can achieve this with much less budget than we have, so can we
2. Also more walking trails, why not join with other communities and create walking/riding trails between communities such as Didsbury, Sundre, it would get bike riders and runners off the highways
Dog Compound available 24 hours/day on contract to remove at large dogs
Increase the frequency of garbage and recycle bin pick ups and decrease the frequency of the compost bin (especially in the winter months where there is next to nothing to put in this bin).
Small pool for under school age should be repaired for the summer.

## General Questions Details: Are there services you would like to see reduced or eliminated?

46 Steeet art is a waste.
All services should be reduced. We should cut town employees by 50% the staffing levels are insane. The wages are insane. The mayor ran on reducing taxes and has not done so. Residential permits are down 70% in 2019 and your development officer is flat out anti development. The town of olds reckless spending and anti development attitude is not sustainable. Town employees have been seen napping in the parks with vehicles running, watering plants after it rained 2 the night before and basically consistently showing their incompetence. Town spending on equipment and infrastructure that benefits only themselves is insane all equipment should be sold and services should be subbed out to bid so efficiencies can be gained. The town has equipment they can run effectively or safely causing unnecessary liability. The town COE has no backbone and seemingly is there to kick his feet up and collect a pay check until he retires. You have seen a number of businesses leave town and will continue to until you are forced into bankruptcy. Crime is high and you



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have useless peace officers working day shifts rather than night shifts where they could be somewhat effective reducing it, this is a management issue. Investing in this town with current leadership is throwing money away.

all the art and flowers along the highway. street cleaning hwy 27 unless we are getting paid well by the provincial government to do it. less brand new vehicles for every employee of the town to drive as a start

All these services could be expanded. I think pathways and better composting and recycling programs.

Annual flowers and planters. Why not trees, shrubs and perennials.

Art Sculptures

Art sculptures, flowers.

art work, not a necessary expense of tax dollars especially in these economic times

Art. If artists want publicity they can donate items or people who care can fund raise. Money should not be forced from my family so others can decide which esthetic blobs should be strewn through the town.

Art.No tax dollars should be spent on art while there is even 1 pothole.

Arts?? Concrete pads for bland sculpture, and too many flower pots on highway:total waste of tax dollars. Not a common walkway, only driver distractio possibilities!Put money in to infrastructure, not flowers that need maintenance on a daily basis!

Beautification & public art

beautification of Olds - no need to have 55 baskets of flowers along highway 27

no need to spend money on the "art" along highway 27

more efficient use of public works employees, - no need to have 5 employees and 3 vehicles come to set up a water pump

Blue bins, we pay extra and it goes to the landfill, i would prefer an extra black bin.

Bylaw enforcement, and the town peace officer? What do they really do???

Can't say right now

Decrease spending on flowers that need to be replaced every year. More stop signs in high traffic neighbour hoods, such as Silverthorn where people are not obeying the yield signa correctly. More push buttons at cross walks on Main Street. Further downtown revitalization is a huge waste of tax payer \$\$\$

Definitely the amount of flowers on hwy 27 through town there are way too many and they look clustered.

Disband the Grizzly's and then there would be enough ice time for minor hockey and the rec hockey team wouldn't have to leave town.

Do away with angle parking as it is so unsafe

Don't build the 10 million dollar shop. Find a cheaper way to manage this. There must be some empty space to rent somewhere.

Eliminate angle parking...very dangerous to vehicles pedestrians and cyclists

eliminate flowers sculptures along highway and reduce flower displays in and around town

Enough sculptures no one needs them. The ones you put up already caused some controversy. The arena does not need more rinks. Just better time management.

Fewer planters along Highway 27 would still beautify the area so cut backs would be OK. Eliminate the gross "entertainment" at the Volunteer Appreciation Diner. Maybe substitute a local talent show.

First us its the public art, we haveno desire to go look at it.

Flower arrangements on Hwy 27. Too many. No more dreadful public art please.

Flowers and art. Look after trails and making outdoor living better in olds.

Flowers and maintenances on hi way divider and down town.Ownership of O-Net is a disgrace.Also the money spent on public art should of been and could ofeen spent on policing.

Flowers and statues

Flowers around town



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Forget about beautification of olds. Do we really need 20+ planters along hwy 27 where vehicles travel at 60 km? Less lawn cutting. Remove the by law or rent a cop who cruises the streets.... if you did a cost benefit analysis, what incremental value does this service provide. Fewer summer students working reduced work week. .... Tuesday to Thursday with Friday and Monday off. Whether it is taxes, water and sewer rates or the Fortis Alberta franchise fee.....tax payers have had enough. And then Mary Anne overwater actually voted for 2019 increase of 2.5% for rainy day and cost of living. What about absorbing cost of living within the budget with cost savings, reductions, efficiencies or just plain saying NO to incremental, additional services that are going to drive taxes higher. Come on mr mayor and town council.....the gravy train days for the province are long gone. .... we need smart, prudent fiscal management. And I hope the mayor and town council will not expect homeowners to carry any additional tax burden to offset reductions/ incentives for business taxes. The answer to balancing budgets is not tax and rate increases. ... but looking at services and how those services are provided. WASTE. Other towns, cities and municipalities seem to be figuring that out. ....its time for this town administration to step up and do like wise

Full time bylaw and peace officer positions are over kill. Perhaps combine the two and in particular give the bylaw officer some authority to act.

Get rid of the peace officer and the bylaw officer, waste of money. When you actually need them, it's the weekend and they don't work weekends. The old guy drives 3 miles an hour on every road he's on and spends an hour a day in the bathroom by the splash park...guy is more of a nuisance than anything.

Hopefully you intend to keep the current ball diamonds/green space when the new ones open up next year and not build more on the mega dome infrastructure that is currently in place

I am a little confused about the addition of 3 and 4 way stops. I have never heard of an accident and I drive some of those routes daily. Never have I thought it took too long to make it through the intersection. I am sure you had great rationale, I guess I just wish I understood it.

I am shocked at the waste of money used to place all the planters on the boulevards in west Olds on Highway 27. The number could be cut back substantially and the money used elsewhere.

I don't think the amount of art on hiway 27 was necessary. Lets perhaps spread some of that around town of put in 1/2 the statues that was there.

I don't think we need to spend our tax dollars on planters on the sides and middle of the highways. Also seeing people mow the grass when it doesn't need it is also a waste of tax dollars

I don't think anything should be reduced.

I feel that all the services Olds has serves our diverse community. I can't think of anything to eliminate, even services I don't use personally are important to others.

I imagine all those planters along highway 27 on the west end cost a fair amount to install and maintain - could they be reduced to save some costs? What is the tax dollar cost on the sculptures along 27? I feel that there are an awful lot of them...

The community BBQ is a nice idea, but more signage would be good to remind folks on the day of.

I think spending money on the stone statues that line HWY 27 is ridiculous. They are not needed, not overly nice to look at and in my opinion a waste of money.

I think the flower pots on the west side entrance to town is excessive overkill. Please reduce the amount of flower containers. There are too many nice town pickups driving around with one person in them.

I think the flowers this year were out of control.

I wasn't impressed with the cost to buy art sculptures along highway 27 on the west side of town. Don't waste money on art projects.

I would like to see the frequency of the green (compost) bin pickup changed during the winter months. Once every 6 weeks would be more than sufficient when there is no yard/garden work being done.

I would love to see cut backs on things like the flowers and art in highway 27. I see a large number of staff dead heading flower pot and it seems such a waste in today's economy. Its lovely to have but really needs to be scaled back.



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I'd like to see costly things like stone sculptures discontinued. The murals in downtown are beautiful, and can be appreciated from a glance, but the costly stone sculptures along the highway, where no one is walking, are wasteful. They are obscure, and need deciphering from small plaques while on foot. This does not beautify our Town, and most certainly not at such high cost. What I view as more important than stone sculptures is a litter-cleanup program in place. Litter is so unsightly, and pulls down our Town. We do our part as a family to pick up litter in our neighbourhood, and I'd love to see some Town funds going to a system of litter cleanup along roads.
Kill the downtown revitalization Make the building owners fix their building or force sales to new owners.
Less cosmetic and aesthetic in town more infrastructure work
Less flags and flower and only local art Until our economy picks Make use of the Olds College planting trees instead of flowers pots everywhere
Less flowers downtown and along highway in summer. It was a ridiculous amount this year, there was barely space between planters at driving speed. Garbage should be every two weeks in winter, forget the green bin in winter. It's very difficult for a family with kids in diapers to do 3 weeks between garbage pickups. I recycle everything possible as well.
Less hiway 27 flowers
Less snow removal
less Sunday services would be a good start.
Lets focus our money on maintaining and upgrading vs. expanding. We don't need more silly sculptures, art work, flowers and walking paths. Our town is beautiful and offers enough of these things to the citizens. We have deteriorating roads, sidewalks and infrastructure. We have a downtown that is half empty but we keep expanding boundaries to the west and crime continues to grow. Owe, and lets not bring up the subject of garbage pick up once every 3 weeks or the proposed new operational buildings which are not needed.
Liquor stores
M
Maintain what we have.
N
No
No more huge flower planters or art along highway 27.
No more trashy poorly designed flowers in the medians!
No more wasting money on sculptures, flowers, etc.
No, as a new resident, I'm very impressed by the management of the municipality.
No.
none
Not sure
Not Sure
Not sure.
number of flowerpots and stone art along hwy 27
Olds community security officers or sheriffs can be reduced to 1.
Park and rec - reduce amount of flowers put out in hwy 27 to half. Do not pay staff to sit and pull weeds all Day, daily, while actually standing around talking and not working at all. Spend money in better ways to improve roads and sidewalks. Eliminate the artwork on hwy 2a that is not permanent and replace with permanent artwork of varying types, made by local artists, , at a much lower cost.
parks, no need to have all 55 planters on highway 27 as well as all baskets downtown - could cut back substantially public works operations - better spending of our operations \$ - no need to have 5 employees and 3 vehicles to set up 1 pump, or to have a grader remove snow from an alley where there is 1 garage, ignore the street in front of the alley and ignore the cross alley where low income town house residents park and I'm sure there are lots more incidents like this,



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debentures have increased from 2017 level of 15 million to approx. 33 million in 2020 and interest has increased from \$280,000 to approx. \$900,000 - we can't sustain these kind of increases
we can't afford another ice surface
Peace Officer
Peace officers. Number of plants on highway 27
People in the Town Office.
Reduce the money for Flowers its a waste of money along the highway and benches what a stupid idea along a highway
Reduce the number of management position,
Reduce the number of planters on Hwy 27. Do not exceed debt ceiling as it exists as a warning
Rock spreading at every intersection when not required. Rocks get all over my sidewalk and lawn and provide no actual traction benefit. Just spend the time to clear the streets and not just add rock layers into the ice. Olds has really bizarre and lacking road maintenance practices compared to other towns.
Reduce the time and money spent on potted flowers as this seems to be the main focus of town workers in the summer. The parks and trails are great but shouldn't need constant additions like art installations, more benches etc. Just keep the trails clear, green spaces maintained and playground equipment safe.
snow plowing/removal.
Ally grading/maintenance
Events/fire works
Spending money needlessly on sculptures, money should be spent elsewhere
Spending money on art
Sportsplex
Staffing levels for the Town of Olds are too high.
Statues
Statues and amount of flowers on Highway 27
Statues.
Stop funding OI, economic and community should be a municipal responsibility, accountable to elected officials and ratepayers.
Subsidizing hockey for those who have money to pay for it
Temporary beautification like flowers or holiday decorations.
That useless bylaw person is the biggest waste of money
The amount of flower pots on the median on highway 27. Expensive and unnecessary
the amount of flowers down hwy 27! Do we really need that many!?!?!?
The arena. If you want your kid to play hockey, you pay for it.
The art work along 27 is a waste.
The Bergen walk is a horrific waste of taxpayers money. It is unclear as to whether the rocks are being rented by the town or if the town now owns the rocks. Either way building the platforms for the rocks was not cheap. What will replace the Bergen rocks? Many unanswered questions about the Bergen walk.
The bylaw officers are a waste of money.
The flowers on 27 are a waste of dollars and put blind spots when driving. These could be greatly reduced.
the flowers, useless.
The focus on beautification in Olds with the planters on highway 27 should be eliminated. Many other pots should be reduced as well. Part of my tax dollars are going towards paying student employees over the summer to maintain them, such as "dead heading" plants. Waste of time and money.
The green bins should be picked up once a month in winter or less, Every second week in summer.



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The maintenance of the parks and green space around town need to be managed properly !The absolute waste of money is appalling!There are way to many people cutting grass and tending to flowers!

The overspending of so,so many flower pots on the west side of Olds is ridiculous.One quarter of these flower pots would look so much better.This is over and above what is needed.Maybeyou should maintain the little areas that you makeevelopers put in when they do a subdivision.The weeds in those small areas are just let to grow3-4feet tall before they are finally looked after.People using these pathways cannot believe how they are neglected.

The person that drives around town all day can be eliminated!

The planters on hwy 27 are an eye sore.They are wind blown and weeds are growing in the boulevard.The art work is another waste of money.Lets talk water bill why are we paying for water that does not go down the drain. Garbage pick up why are we picking up the green bins in the winter?These are all areas that could be looked at.I garden and the green bin picked up every 3 weeks in the summer is a problem.

The ridiculous flower pots all over town that we spend money on INSTEAD OF SNOW REMOVAL.

The stone statues

The Town need to become fiscally responsible in ALL AREAS

The water park is a huge waste of water and water costs in Olds are already too high.

The water service does not justify \$6 / m3. The cost for every cubic meter i take out of the system does not need a full charge going back into the system. I water my lawn and wash things that i pay for and should not. We should have meters on our residential sewage line to accurately account for what I dispose of.

There have been rumors of a new town shop being built on the northwest end of town. This is not the time for this project, I would prefer to see the town continue to use the facilities they occupy now.

There seems to be an over abundance town vehicles.I also think there are too many town employees particularly theTown Office.I think that the qualificationsof the employees need to be reviewed and that all employees need to be on board with theand development plan of Olds.

Though flowers are beautiful,our weather is not...so they just do not last. Why spend so much money on so many baskets through out the town that only last such a short time. Instead put in something that lasts like trees and shrubs into the Meridians down highway 27.

unknown

Unnecessary flowers everywhere costing to much money to maintain and buy. ,"ART"

Unnecessary rented statues are a gross misuse of funds.

Volunteers are greatly appreciated but I don't think a huge meal and entertainment is necessary. A coffee and dessert evening would be less costly.

Walking path maintenance could be reduced by at least 30 percent. Lots of wasted dollars on statues, flower boxes, watering trucks, etc.

water park eliminated

Way to many flowers. Clean up the back alleys instead.

Ya why do we need though sculptures on the west end of town. Seems like a waste of money.

Yes eliminate the snow police for sidewalks in winter. It is not a fare policy to enforce. unless the entire town is done at the same time so no one is left out. Just eliminate it all together.

You could really reduce the amount of flower pots on the west end boulevard coming into town from Sundre.It makes us look like we have way too much money and no common sense.

If you continue with the same amount of pots at least distribute them in the uptown, as there wasn one pot on 51 street in the uptown .Teds, Eye Warehouse,Flames could usesome of those excess pots of flowers.But overall, itâ€™s way too much on the west end.And please, send a notice in the utilities bill to residents as to how much all those pots are costing residents.



# Town of Olds Citizen Budget 2020

## General Comments

Content	Date	Likes
We really need garbage pick up every two weeks to prevent rotting and excessive fly problems from it sitting for too long	14-Oct	
Need sidewalks along hwy 27 and lights at 61 Ave and hwy 27	13-Oct	
There must be a more extensive analysis of proposed development in highly visible areas. The strip mall at 2x27 is a disaster and an eyesore. More economic development. Olds needs to take an "open for business" approach and incentivize new industries to invest in Olds and create more middle class jobs. Town council needs to take a more progressive approach to future community development. We need to attract more young families to stay in, and relocate to our town.	13-Oct	
Need more ice surface for hockey. Get college involved financially. Less flowers on 27. Bylaw working nights and weekends when all the crime is happening. More speeding and distracted driving enf. Way more black garbage pickup.	13-Oct	1
I would like to see a new intersection at 2A and 27thw. It is very dangerous for pedestrians walking with strollers or wheel chairs.	13-Oct	
Year round pickleball courts should be considered. It is the fastest growing sport. As well recreational facilities for youth to keep them engaged and active is always beneficial	13-Oct	1
The town needs a new museum. Our present museum is overcrowded, a very sad museum for this town.	11-Oct	
All future priorities mentioned to focus on in the next 3-5 years are important and valuable. Each age group's needs are different, as are interests. I value and respect these even if it doesn't pertain to me.	11-Oct	1
Flower baskets and Christmas lights + all good. Thank you!!	11-Oct	
The roads in Olds - the lines on the roads are not painted regularly and sometime no lines. It is not safe. We need a ring road, interchange on Q2 needs to be changed.	11-Oct	
Garbage pick up needs to be more frequent, water prices are to high. Need more recreational indoor stuff to do during winter and need another ice surface.	11-Oct	
Olds is a beautiful town, but feel the town does not take responsibility for it's actions or lack of actions.	11-Oct	
Run it as a private business; you are spending our money, so don't waste in on yourself...	11-Oct	
Olds is a very nice community in which to raise a family and to live, but it seems a shame and embarrassment that homes with larger families have to wait 3 weeks in between garbage or recycle pick ups. I wish council would consider replacing the smaller curbside garbage bins with larger ones or increase the frequency of pick ups.	11-Oct	1
By and large I think that Council and Administration have tried to do a good job. However there have been a number of boondoggles that will haunt us for some time. First, the cost of water in Olds is ridiculously higher than many other jurisdictions. How could the Mountain View water commission not have secured a contract from the Federal Govt (Bowden Institution) before commencing the water pipeline. Second, the problems we have had with broken sewer mains and the number of times repairs were made only to be re-repaired time and time again leaves one to question whether more expertise was needed before attempting quick fixes. Third the Olds Institute has held we taxpayers hostage.	10-Oct	2
Over all, I feel the town does an exceptional job. The water park is proving to be a white elephant and an unnecessary cost to the tax payer. The very people that pushed for this should be the ones responsible for the maintenance costs. The amount of time used due to our climate, does not justify its expenditures. Why can we not have better support for our historical heritage (Museum)?	10-Oct	



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Cost reduction - stop try to "look pretty" and get rid of useless people and programs and hire people that know what the heck they are doing.Take responsibility for your decisions and actions and stop blaming "the system" for your screw-ups.Freeze gov't salaries and stop spending beyond your means.Seniors need better support - both financially and affordable housing - and affordable means LESS than \$1000.00/month!!	9-Oct	
Water rate is way high especially for the low income family and seniors.	9-Oct	
It is time for the mayor and council to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and leadership. Did we need to advertise in spring 2019for 17 summer student positions? On Thursday July 11 @ 6:42 am there were 3 labourers and 3 town trucks tending to planters on hwy 27. There were 3 students driving lawnmowers to cut a small easement by the lake. Red deer just froze salaries for mayor and 8 councillors. Chestermere reduced taxes in 2019 by 2% and utility rates by 8%. Federally,political leaders are focusing on affordability rolling out targeted measures to alleviate financial strain. Start making the hard tough decisions and stop assuming tax increases are inevitable. Time to look at cost reduction opportunities and some either/or outcomes.	8-Oct	1
I cannot believe that a CEO of a small town like Olds should receive such high salary .....just like all government now. ...just not proper.There seems to be no accountability for this council. Have by laws to have all dogs on a leash but people on the walkways think its just fine to let their dog off leash.Don't have anyone to enforce the laws.	7-Oct	1
cut back on the flowers on 27. less of the peace officer driving around doing nothing but irritating residents.more frequent garbage pickup. support uptown businesses and get the vacancies filled.open access from the vistas to the west, giving another route to the new sports fields	7-Oct	1
We very much appreciated this opportunity to present our concerns.	7-Oct	
there should be less focus on all the giant planters and art work along the hiway.1/2 of those structures would be sufficient.Lets focus on enforcing bi-laws, helping out our seniors and increasing downtown vibrancy.I love the murals downtown and would love to see more of that sort of art work by local artists.	7-Oct	1
I have contacted the town by e-mail on several occasions, and have never received a reply back.This is very frustrating, and it makes one question as to whether anyone at the town office is accountable.Also, nice to see all of the planters along the highway, but do they all have to be the same color of flower in every planter?Could we not shake it up a bit and plant these planters with different plants?	7-Oct	
Nice to have free public events to get the community together however when times are tough there needs to be cuts and this should be the first thing to go. Focus on economic development and reducing taxes; both residential and business.	7-Oct	
Black bins need to be picked up every week or at least every other.Green bins do not need picked up in the winter but need to be picked up every week in the summer.It bothers me that the truck drives around in the winter to pick up only a few green bins.  <i>Note: As per our social media policy, when specific employees or individuals are named, derogatory statements will be removed.</i>	7-Oct	2
All services should be reduced.We should cut town employees and wages to reduce taxes. Residential permits are down 70% in 2019 and your development officer is anti development.The town of olds reckless spending and anti development attitude is not sustainable.Town spending on equipment is insane all equipment should be sold and services should be put out to bid so efficiencies can be gained.You have seen a number of businesses leave town and will continue to until changes are made. Crime (theft) is high and you have peace officers working day shifts rather than night shifts where they could be somewhat effective reducing it,this is a management issue.Investing in the town of olds at this time would be a wasted investment.	6-Oct	2
Garbage pickup needs to be way more often, snow removal needs to be way quicker and often.Utility bills are way high for what we get.	6-Oct	2



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Snow removal must be prioritized and let's get started much earlier in the morning, I can recall many times last year where we had huge dumps and not one plow went down the road in front of the schools, wherein the downtown core was cleared first and they don't even open most businesses until 9:00 am. If schools are not closed during those extreme dumps then please prioritize to clear them first and earlier than 8:00 am.	6-Oct	
I'm not sure if relevant, but o-net should not be funded by tax dollars. Wifi in parks is not needed. It takes away the only outdoor, offline place our kids have left. No tax increase, better to let everyone get ahead than add some decorations and unnecessary festivals.	6-Oct	
Flower pots were beautiful but there are too many requiring too many man power hours to keep up. Do not need more Christmas display's at this point. What we have is beautiful. Better to not spend money when times are tough for everyone. Better to have no tax increase. Educate people on garbage and recycling because not many people know. I am sure most of the blue bins are not done properly. Most municipalities are not taking plastic but we still are? Is there a market in Olds for it or are we just paying more people to throw it into the garbage. Educate your citizens as to what is happening.	6-Oct	1
I feel like snow removal in residential areas could be more often.	6-Oct	2
We had a really crazy water reading in July and the staff contacted us immediately. They are looking into the anomaly so hopefully the glitch in the system can be corrected because sure enough the glitch will effect many other folks.	6-Oct	
The garbage pickup needs to be every second week. Not three weeks. And rotate blue bin and green bin on other week. The garbage stinks.	5-Oct	2
I very much disapprove of the glass enclosures within the town offices. I believe it has created an "us vs them" mentality within the staff and the public. If the staff feels threatened by the public then it is the staff that needs more effective training. The sense that the town staff are here to help has long disappeared. However, upon consideration, the working staff can only reflect the management and maybe council should consider that aspect. Unless of course the council is the problem ... and for that I am not well versed enough to determine.	5-Oct	
borrowing too much money for capital expenditures - money borrowed has increased from 2017 levels of 16,000,000 to \$33,000,000 in 2020, interest paid annually will increase from \$280,000 to approx. \$900,000 that is 5% of operating budget. and no plan to curtail spending. This does not seem to be the care, prudence and respect for our tax dollars that was in your first statement of the survey. If our households were run like this we would be in bankruptcy - which is why there is a borrowing limit on municipalities. Unless you are willing to make cutbacks in other capital expenditures, no new ones should even be suggested. Why not be like the college and high school and have the money up front before upgrading sports facilities	4-Oct	
I would like to see the town address affordable housing in this town. It is becoming harder for the average family and singles to afford to live in the community of Olds.	4-Oct	
Olds is a vibrant community. I appreciate the timely snow removal and the installation of traffic lights. Flower planters in median on HWY 27 impede visibility. some town staff need PR training. Olds is a great town but getting expensive to maintain a residence for ordinary people.	4-Oct	3
Olds doesn't have the money like we use too. Need to make things more affordable with today's economy	3-Oct	
We really appreciate the green spaces in Olds and the attention that they receive. The support for things like block parties is also really appreciated.	3-Oct	
I would like to hear and see better communication on who authorizes and how tax dollars are spent.	2-Oct	1
I appreciate everything the Town does for us. I would like to see an economic impact study for a larger recreation complex with third indoor ice surface, bowl type seating and a few other options and see what benefits such a facility may bring to our community.	2-Oct	
the town should not be invested money in new operational buildings, when there is no current sale of current assets or even an environmental test done on land that old buildings sit on. In this day and age	2-Oct	



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who is going to spend money on these old facilities that would serve nobody any good. Yes it would be nice to have everything under one roof, maybe if you won \$60,000,000 you could. No need to increase our taxes because of this.		
Olds is a fabulous community.Lots to offer and good infrastructure.I would like to see support towards Early Childhood.Ie. Programs, events, printed material, recreational.If we get kids off to a great start, everyone benefits; socially and economically (ie less drain on other supports.Ie. Solicitor general, mental health, health, etc.). A dollar invested in the early years saves 7-12 dollars with in 10 years. UNICEF.	1-Oct	1
For the most part, the town of Olds does a great job with their budget. I personally would like to see a greater allocation to sports and rec in the community, both indoor and outdoor.  A minor inconvenience is garbage pick-up only once every 3 weeks. That seems a lot "worse" than every other community on the corridor.  Again, though, the town does the best it can with the budget at hand. For the most part, I'm very satisfied with what we receive for our tax dollars.	1-Oct	
Olds is a community with great potential. I think that by focusing on continuing to provide the best services possible Olds will be a good place to live going forward. My greatest complaint, and likely a problem near impossible to solve, is the water and its related costs in Olds. Unfortunately, the location of the town inhibits its ability to provide cheaper water services, so I am not sure what the answer is.	1-Oct	
Olds is a great place to live, very glad to see it is growing. I do find that it can sometimes be frustrating dealing with The attitude of town staff which is too bad considering everything else the town has going for it	30-Sep	
I really have enjoyed the beautification of the town, and the responsible maintenance of town facilities and road. Thank you	30-Sep	
I like the fact that the Town is considering all age groups of our community and making it attractive to to live here and to attract others to move to Olds.Our population has grown steadily and people comment on how nice the town is.Olds is a great place to live and to raise a family.It is also great for kids as we have great schools and sports.Our Arts, Culture, and Heritage respect our history and present as well as the future.We love Olds.	28-Sep	
School zones need to be enforced better. Flowers are nice, but too many, a bit over kill on highway 27, people drive too fast there to enjoy them anyway. Love all the paths and art! More outdoor winter activities for the whole family would be nice. Outdoor rink, perhaps?	26-Sep	
Like the art, gives Olds a uniqueness.	25-Sep	1
Stop wasting our tax dollars on art work. Would love to see a Dog park committee.	24-Sep	2
Too much spent on highway 27 flowers and art	24-Sep	2
Something has to be done about 57th St. beside Holy Trinity! There is a lot of very fast traffic and lots of people, young and old, using the sidewalks along here. It is scary to let children walk to the Holy Trinity playground.	24-Sep	
I sometimes feel the town is putting the horse in front of the cart. The planning in this town is ridiculous! The speed in residential neighborhoods needs to be dropped. There is no space between crosswalks and vehicles. I can't believe there isn't more pedestrian fatalities! The school zone in the Highlands is terrible. There is children there all hours of the day and speeding is a huge problem. Ot should be a playground zone and not just a school zone. Please take better care of our children, persons with needsand seniors. They are the people that I see having the hardest time.	24-Sep	1
I think the beautification along the highway is important. Why would anyone want to live in, or visit an ugly community? Perhaps, if residents of Olds dislike flowers so much, we could invest in trees instead. Studies have shown that living near trees increases levels of happiness.	23-Sep	2



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I'm not sure if other commenters have had the misfortune of living somewhere with no schools or healthcare services, grocers, or gas stations, let alone all of the fantastic amenities and services offered in Olds and by the municipality. The Bergen Rocks are a very weird, albeit funny installation and I wouldn't have chosen them, but art is subjective and important nonetheless.		
I think we need to stop with all the planters and flowers along the highway.Waste of money and time.I also feel like no one on the council including the mayor is listening when you have a complaint.They just hope you give up trying to bring it to their attention.Plus the thing I have the hardest thing with is the cost of water here.I have lived several places and the water here is the grossest and most expensive.	23-Sep	1
The home based business license should be less than commercial, because they are less privileged. They are ridiculously high and no one is happy about it.	20-Sep	2
Fund the museum properly and give it the space it was promised. The library needs funding to enhance a community feel. More snow removal. Especially in the close sections because they are entirely skipped.	20-Sep	1
start leading in a professional matter where you treat the taxpayers money responsibly and not like a bunch of spoiled kids who believe there is no end to the money. \$18 million indebt for O-net is enough of a burden for the people of olds, NO MORE DEBT until it is proven that O-net is capable of paying off this money!!!!	19-Sep	6
Continue to have surveys like this and open communication with the public	19-Sep	4
Statues going west of town along with the current amount of flower baskets are a waste of tax payers money, the statues serve no purpose where they are located, from feedback that ive received, no one cares either.	18-Sep	4
I'd like to see a change in the antiquated thinking of Town Council.Perhaps it's time for some new blood?	16-Sep	
Neighbourhood BBQ trailer a waste of tax dollars	16-Sep	1
Neighborhood BBQ's were a fantastic idea, but poorly executed!! I was stunned to see there was no signage entering the neighborhood on the BBQ day.	16-Sep	1
Too many flowers, sculptures, neighbourhood bbq's and now "Oliver": don't pay for this kind of stuff with my tax dollars!!	14-Sep	1
Now having grandkids. . .I feel the Frank Wong playground/park is way past due for an upgrade. There are a lot of kids in the area and they need a safe place to play.	13-Sep	6
The town needs to reduce it's staff of suits and get some good hands on people that have common sense, are capable, and desire to communicate with residents as part of problem solving. Some very common statements are "why is the town doing that - what a waste - that won't solve anything - if they would have only asked we could have told them how to fix that."The town does a pretty good job despite some of their managers!	12-Sep	3
PLEASE pave the small gravel access road on the south side of hwy 27 and open the intersection that is currently barricaded.It will take pressure off the hwy 27 / 65 Ave intersection and reduce traffic that our emergency vehicles need to contend with. There is no need to wait for Loblaws to figure out how to develop the rest of their property, the access road is maintained by the town not Loblaws.Pave it and open the intersection!	12-Sep	3
I am concerned with borrowing over the debt limit.This limit was set to ensure that municipalities do not get over extended.I am also concerned about Onet and the amount of debt they are carrying.We need to live within the amount of revenue generated through grants and taxes and if we can't please don't borrow money to make up for the difference.I think provincial funding is going to be reduced and you will have some tough decisions to make.I am happy with the services I receive for the taxes I pay and Olds is a great place to live.	11-Sep	
Please do not borrow 10 million dollars for something we can not afford.Use what we have until we can afford to replace with known costs.	11-Sep	



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Would like to see the office people to get more efficient. More online services for people working would be nice. Realize that you are spending people's/tax money and that you are not creating value, but costing us, so please show that you appreciate that and that you use our money wisely.	10-Sep	
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