

Council holds public meetings on 2025 budget

On Tuesday, Dec. 10 and Wednesday, Dec. 11, City Council held public meetings to review the City’s activities over the last year and a proposed budget for 2025-2029, with a focus on the 2025 plan. Residents can submit feedback to the City’s Finance Department via email at finance_info@abbotsford.ca until Jan. 6, 2025.

Staff developed the 2025-2029 Financial Plan in alignment with Council’s 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Some of the most significant tax-supported items in the financial plan are Abbotsford Police Department services at \$75.1 million; Parks, Recreation and Culture programs and services at \$40.5 million; Abbotsford Fire Rescue Service at \$29.1 million; and new and replacement infrastructure at \$23.5 million.

The budget includes approximately \$84 million in capital expenses in the first year of the plan. Major projects for 2025 include road resurfacing, railway crossing and intersection improvements, drainage culvert replacements, renewal of an airport runway and sewage treatment plant infrastructure, bike lane and sidewalk programs, water and sewer mains, fleet and IT upgrades and neighbourhood parks, amenities and washroom development. Because of Abbotsford’s financial position, the City is able to manage and fund these projects through reserves, rather than taking on debt or further raising taxes.

The 2025 property tax increase could vary for property owners depending on how the assessed value of their property by BC Assessment changes compared with the average change across Abbotsford.

Council will make their final considerations over the budget at their Jan. 21, 2025 meeting. View the full report at abbotsford.ca/2025budgetreport.

City Council approves emergency shelter in downtown Abbotsford

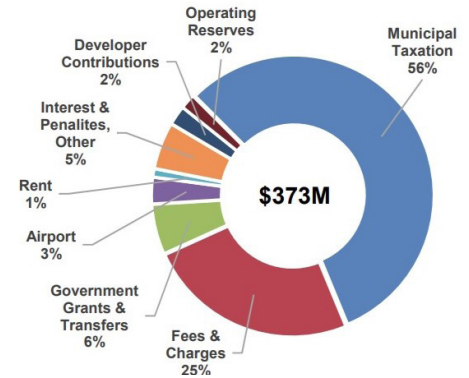
On Dec. 3, City Council approved the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit and Housing Agreement to allow for a 30-bed emergency shelter at the corner of Montvue Avenue and Gosling Way.

In their report to Council, staff noted that the building, located at 2539 Montvue Ave., has been used as a 10-bed temporary shelter during the extreme weather season. The property is owned by Archway Community Services but is being leased to the Province through BC Housing for the next three years.

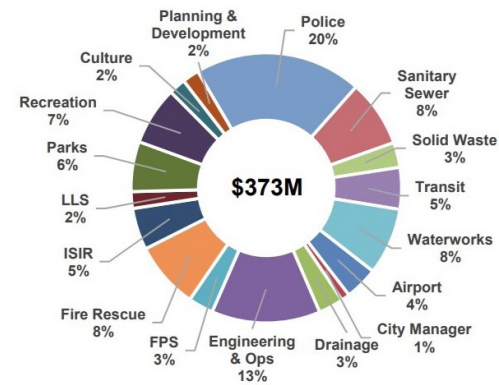
The shelter will now provide 30 individual units with shared amenity, as well as 24/7 wraparound support services delivered under the Homelessness Encampment Action Response Temporary Housing (HEARTH) and Homelessness Encampment Action Response Team (HEART) programs.

This aligns with Council’s priority to address homelessness in our community through partnerships with local service providers and senior levels of government. View the full report at abbotsford.ca/montvueshelter.

Where the money comes from



Where the money goes



City Council updates Financial Plan

On Dec. 3, City Council amended the City’s Five-Year Financial Plan Bylaw for 2024 to 2028. This bylaw was first adopted on Dec. 11, 2023 and last amended on May 7, 2024.

In their report to Council, staff explained that the amendment reflects changes to 2024 operating and capital expenses, as well as the inclusion of \$910,980 in provincial funding from the Small Scale, Multi-Unit Housing Capacity Funding Grant, and up to \$25.6 million in funding from the Federal Housing Accelerator Fund. The City also received a \$76.6 million grant from the provincial government as part of the Barrowtown Pump Station Resiliency Project.

View the full report at abbotsford.ca/financialplanupdate.