

Public Feedback Needed - 2025 Budget



Town of Creston

2025 Municipal Budget

2025 - 2029 Financial Plan
Corporate Business Plan



What's Inside:

Survey #1

How do you want your tax dollars spent?

Survey #2

Have Your Say on Supplemental Budget Items

Each year the Town of Creston creates a budget (Five-Year Financial Plan) laying out how the Town will allocate its limited resources to achieve Council's identified strategic goals in a fiscally responsible manner.

It is important that the community is involved in the development of this document. Meaningful public involvement can assist Council in better understanding the programs and services residents value most.

The budget process involves balancing municipal income each year with planned expenditures related to service delivery. The budgeting process starts every Fall for the upcoming year and must be adopted by Council no later than May 15th of the budget year.

We invite and appreciate your active participation! Inside this newsletter, you'll find two surveys awaiting your insights. Alternatively, you can access the surveys online at letstalk.creston.ca. Opting for the traditional paper format? Feel free to drop off your completed survey at Town Hall in person, or place in the drop box located at street level, 238 - 10th Ave. N.. Your input matters!

Deadline to submit surveys is November 21, 2024.

Other ways to get involved:

Attend Council Meetings

The public is encouraged to attend Committee of the Whole/Council Meetings to keep informed of the decisions being made affecting the budget process. The meeting schedule can be found at letstalk.creston.ca.

Ask Questions or Provide Comments

Have any thoughts or questions about the budget? No problem! Head over to letstalk.creston.ca to share your comments with Council or to ask our staff a question.

SURVEY #1 | How do you want your tax dollars spent?

The Town of Creston is seeking public input into the 2025 Budget and five-year financial plan. The following survey is one tool to help you provide input. Council will finalize the budget in March. As our 2025 budget and five-year financial plan is still in the works, we are basing our survey on **last year's numbers**. Please take a look at the budget snapshot below and fill out the survey that follows.

Protective Services \$3.4 M



Police

\$1.48 M



Fire Rescue
\$1.67 M



Bylaw & Animal Control
\$179 K



Building Inspection
\$110 K

General Government \$2.3 M



Corporate Administration
\$806 K



Council & Legislative Services
\$481 K



Information Technology Systems
\$233 K



Financial Services
\$453 K



Real Estate & Facilities
\$282 K

Transportation & Transit \$1.26 M



Transportation
\$737K



Engineering & Public Works
\$261K



Storm Water
\$267 K

Recreation, Parks & Culture \$0.76 M



Parks

\$368 K



Trails & Sidewalks
\$119 K



Cemeteries

\$138 K



Arts & Culture
\$131 K

Economic & Community Development \$1.26 M



Community Planning
\$1.1 M



Economic Development/
Downtown Revitalization/Doctor Recruitment
\$163 K

Utilities - Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste \$3.54 M



Drinking Water
\$1.36 M



Sewer
\$1.74 M



Solid Waste
\$439 K

(Does not include capital amortization)

With the 2024 annual rate adjustments of 2% (Sewer), 2.4% (Water) and 5.5% (Solid Waste), this results in a net increase to single residential properties of:

- Water \$8
- Sewer \$6
- Solid Waste \$7



1. Based on the data to the left showing where your tax dollars are going, are there any areas where you think the Town of Creston should be spending MORE? (check as many as you like)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation, Parks and Culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic and Community Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities - Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste |

2. Based on your answer(s) for Question 1: What do you hope the Town of Creston would accomplish with this increased investment in this area/these areas?

3. Are there any areas where you think the Town of Creston should be spending LESS? (check as many as you like)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protective Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation, Parks and Culture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Economic and Community Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation and Transit | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities - Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste |

4. Based on your answer(s) in Question 3: What do you hope the Town of Creston would do if it decreased investment in this/these areas?*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in other areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce Taxes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pay off Debt | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) |

5. Any other comments:

SURVEY #2 | Have Your Say on Supplemental Budget Items

Over the next few weeks, Town Council is considering supplemental items for the 2025 budget and five-year financial plan. They propose brand new initiatives or changes to service levels in relation to previous years. Decisions regarding supplementals will impact service levels and taxation rates in the years to come.

Let us know which items you think are worthy investments in the immediate future. There is a section at the end of the survey for comments.

Public Art Program

Supporting Art and Culture is an important tool to achieve cultural sustainability and diversity within Creston. Displaying public art strategically in the downtown core adds character to the Town where citizens and tourists frequent. The Town has budgeted \$5,000 in past years (\$11,000 in 2024) for the installation and maintenance of public art. In the past, most public art was acquired by the Creston Valley Public Art Connection which is no longer an active organization. In 2024 the Public Art Council Select Committee was formed. It is anticipated that this budget will support purchase and installation of any works acquired through the work of the Committee.

OPERATING COST: \$11,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Town Operating
Funding

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Consultant for Green Burial Construction Design

In 2017, the Town successfully completed a Cemetery Development Plan for Forest Lawn, which included an option for a green burial development area.

Currently, we lack a detailed design for the Green Burial Area at Forest Lawn Cemetery and comprehensive procedures for staff to carry out green burials.

This budget request is intended to hire a qualified consultant who will design the Green Burial Area at Forest Lawn Cemetery. The design will include a plan with all necessary procedures for staff to perform green burials and list all required equipment.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$30,000

FUNDING SOURCE: RDCK Cemetery
Service Funding

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

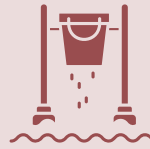
Splash Park Slip Resistant Surface Replacement

The rubber surface at Centennial Park's Rotary Splash Park is deteriorating, requiring more frequent patching than usual. A full resurfacing would be an ideal solution to ensure durability and safety for park visitors.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$85,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Grants and/or donations from community organizations and Town contribution for the remainder.

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Cycling Network Improvements - Protected Bike Lanes

Hillside St from 9th Avenue N and 16th Avenue N

Protected bike facilities use barriers to safely separate cyclists from traffic. A quick-build setup can use temporary materials, which the Town will need to inspect and replace as needed.

Hillside Street (between 9th and 16th Avenue N) has a wide, unmarked 13.4m pavement with 4,500 vehicles daily at 50 km/h, making it challenging for cyclists. The street's grade near 12th Avenue N may also discourage cyclists, though it connects directly to the Creston and District Community Complex.

The proposed facility would mark lanes with paint and flexible posts, allowing for parking on one side and bike lanes on both sides, with a speed limit reduced to 30 km/h.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$47,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Provincial Grant (70%) and Town Surplus (30%)

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Pedestrian Network Improvements – Flashing Beacons (Solar Power)

20th Avenue N / Canyon St (Hwy 3) Pedestrian Crossing

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and Pole Mounted Flashers have flashing amber lights that alternate back and forth to attract motorists' attention and thereby increase yield behaviour. The signage and flashers may be side mounted, or mounted overhead.

To facilitate the strong pedestrian connection between the Secondary School and north of the highway, upgrading this crossing to be a pedestrian activated amber rapid flashing beacon will improve pedestrian visibility and safety crossing the highway.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$32,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Provincial Grant (70%) and Town Surplus (30%)

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Pedestrian Network Improvements – Flashing Beacons (Solar Power)

18th Avenue N / Canyon St (Hwy 3) Pedestrian Crossing

Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and Pole Mounted Flashers have flashing amber lights that alternate back and forth to attract motorists' attention and thereby increase yield behaviour. The signage and flashers may be side mounted, or mounted overhead.

To facilitate the strong pedestrian connection between the Secondary School and north of the highway, upgrading this crossing to be a pedestrian activated amber rapid flashing beacon will improve pedestrian visibility and safety crossing the highway.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$32,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Provincial Grant (70%)
and Town Surplus (30%)

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Specialized Equipment Purchase

The Town does not currently have the proper equipment required to maintain the recommended cycling facilities. This is especially the case for protected bicycle facilities and multi-use pathways where smaller machinery would be required to access the lanes for snow removal and clearing of debris.

The overall maintenance of the network includes several components, as follows:

- Sweeping and removing gravel, debris, and leaves; trimming adjacent vegetation; and adjusting bollards and other elements related to protected bike lane delineators.
- In the fall and winter months, it is critical to clear and remove debris and snow and treat and remove ice or slippery conditions (see MMTP Section Council Policies 5.4.1 for recommendations on the Town's Snow Removal Policy and Street Sweeping Procedure)
- There are also asset management activities, which can include repairing pavement surfaces and other road surface appurtenances such as utility covers; replacing worn pavement markings, signs, and signals; mitigating locations with pooling water or drainage issues; replacing broken delineators; maintaining street and path lighting; and repairing and maintaining equipment that is used to maintain cycling facilities.

Purchase of a mid-sized tractor with different attachments (brush, bucket, sprayer on the back) that can be used to clear snow, leaves, and other debris from a cycling facility or MUP.

ANNUAL OPERATING COST: \$75,000

FUNDING SOURCE: Municipal Reserves

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Rail Trail Surveying

Development of a trail running parallel to the railway would provide a pedestrian/bike route running from the Town's north boundary to its south boundary. CPR has indicated initial willingness to lease sections of their land to the Town for this purpose, but require that the route be surveyed prior to providing costs.

The Town already owns portions of land acquired through subdivision along the proposed route, and will approach adjacent landowners to request rights of way as the preferred option, as opposed to leasing, where possible. This funding will, in part, allow Council and staff to assess the feasibility of this project from a budget perspective in future years.

Funding will be used to contract a survey plan of the proposed trail to inform further discussions with CPR, in order to determine costs for trail lease in areas where rights of way or town property are not yet acquired. Prior to survey, staff will identify a route that minimizes land lease requirements.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT COST: \$25,000

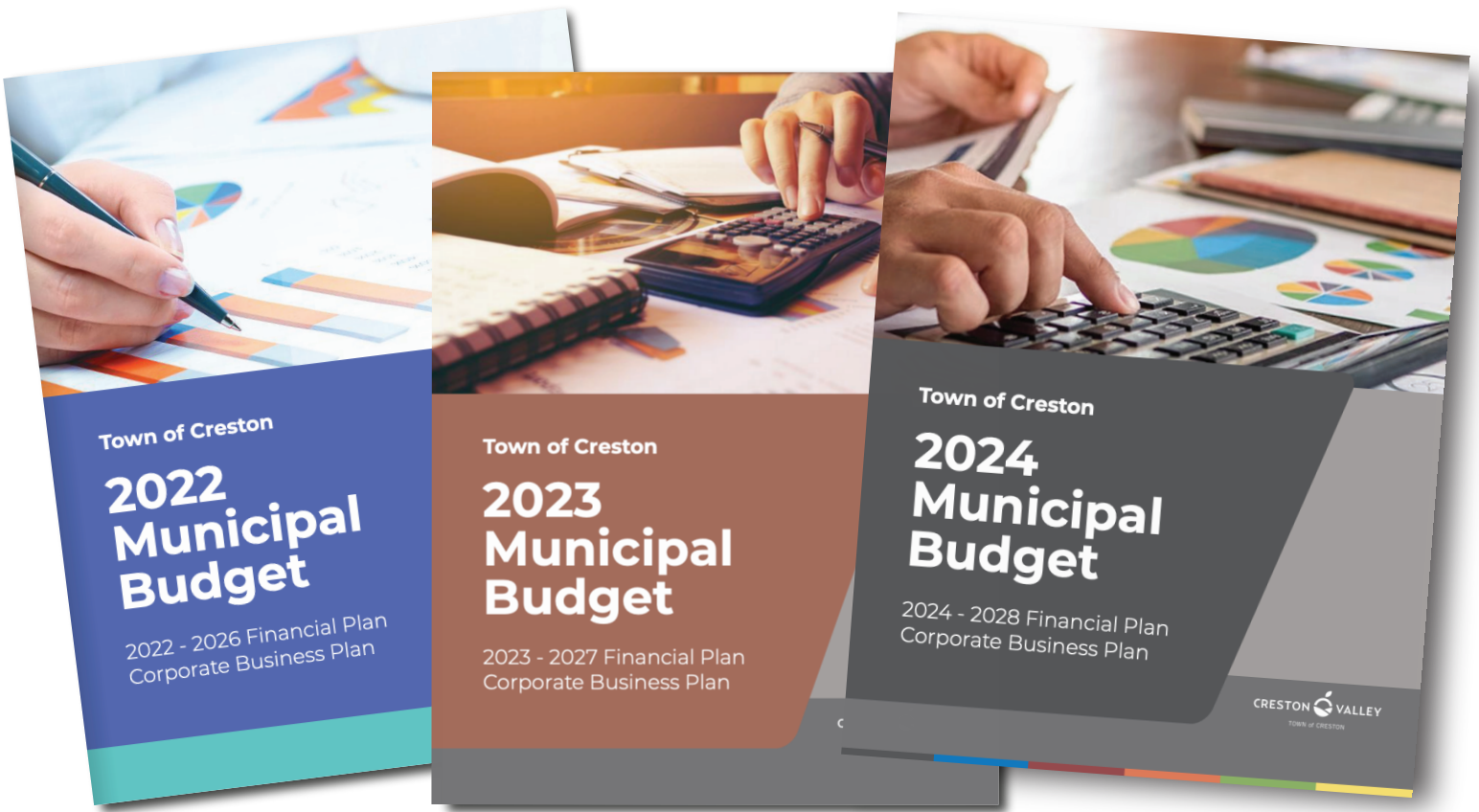
FUNDING SOURCE: Municipal Surplus

Should Council approve this supplemental budget item?



- Yes
- No
- Not this Year

Comments:



View previous budgets or learn more at letstalk.creston.ca

Did you know that in 2024, the Town of Creston was:

81st

Lowest residential municipal property tax out of 162 municipalities in British Columbia.

67 municipalities that are lower do not pay for policing cost.

17th

Lowest in total residential property taxes and utility charges out of 78 B.C. municipalities over 5,000 population.

All 78 are required to pay for policing cost.

1st

Lowest municipal taxes per capita out of 7 Kootenay municipalities with populations over 5,000.

Questions? Contact Us - We are here to help! • 238 - 10th Avenue North, Creston, BC

Mail

Box 1339
Creston, BC, V0B1G0



Secure Drop Box

Street level
at Town Hall



Phone

250.428.2214



Email

info@creston.ca



Websites

creston.ca
letstalk.creston.ca



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