

2026 Budget

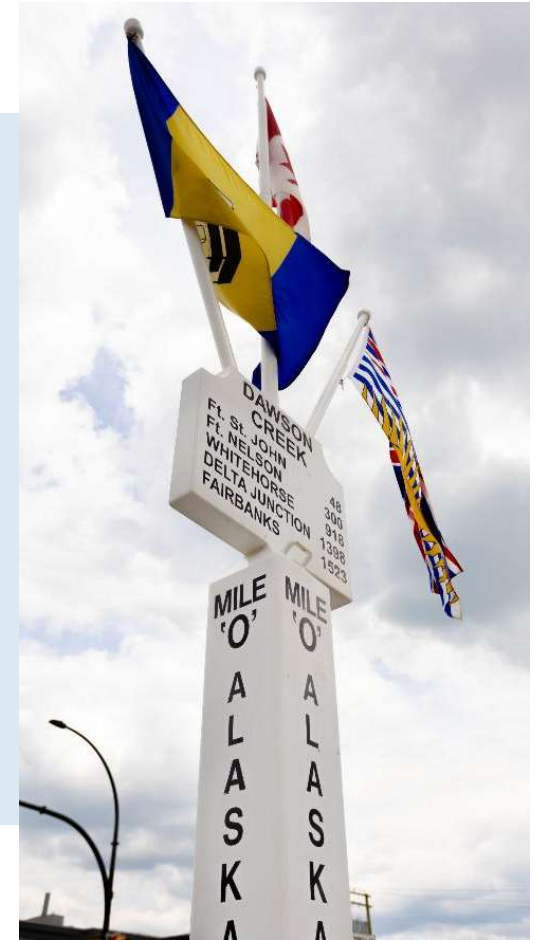
Public Consultation

February 9, 2026



Agenda

- 01 Council's Role
- 02 Strategic Priorities
- 03 Budget Timeline
- 04 Building the Annual Budget:
Operating & Capital
- 05 Property Tax Calculation



Council's Role

Council is the steward of the public's assets and resources.

It is their role to balance their existing responsibilities and obligations with the pursuit of a long-term vision for the community.

Council's Commitments

- Be transparent in their decision making
- Create an environment for respectful and honest communication
- Honour and respect the distinct roles of governance and administration
- Take ownership and accountability for their decisions and actions

Council's Role: Government Services

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT City of Dawson Creek

- Building & Development
- Bylaw & Business Licensing
- Cemeteries
- Community Events & Programming
- Community Planning
- City Hall
- Emergency Support Services (ESS)
- Fire Department & RCMP
- Municipal Property Taxes
- Parks & Trails
- RCMP
- Recreation Facilities
- Roads, Public Works & Transportation
- Solid Waste Collection
- Water & Sewer Management

REGIONAL DISTRICT Peace River

- Environmental Services
- Fire Protection
- Invasive Plants
- Regional Building & Development
- Regional Emergency Services
- Regional Hospital
- Regional Parks & Recreation
- Regional Property Taxes
- Rural Area Planning & Development
- Rural Water & Sewer Management
- Seniors Aging in Place
- Solid Waste

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT British Columbia

- Health Care
- Highway Maintenance
- Justice
- Post Secondary Education
- Environmental Management
- Provincial Income Tax
- Provincial Property Tax
- Public Safety
- Schools
- Social Services
- Support for Employees & Employers

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT Canada

- Banking
- Canadian Pension Plan
- Child Benefit
- Criminal Law
- Employment Insurance
- Foreign Affairs
- Income Tax
- International Travel
- Military
- Old Age Security
- Student Loans

Council's Role

2022-2026 Strategic Priorities

City Council's strategic priorities guide the City's budget decisions each year.

City staff develop and present budget items based on Council's established priorities and the Strategic Action Plan, ensuring proposed projects, services, and investments align with Council's direction and long-term goals.

This approach helps focus resources where they have the greatest impact on the community.



2026 Budget Timeline

Key Dates



Building the Annual Budget

Capital vs. Operating

The Annual Budget is made up of two expense groups: the Capital Budget and the Operating Budget.

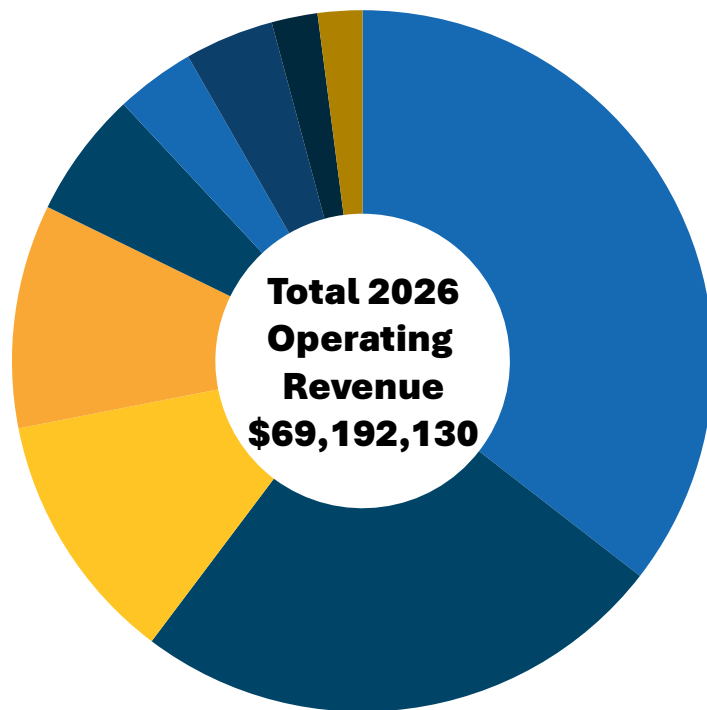
The **Capital Budget** pays for long-term investments such as park improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and new vehicles and equipment.

The **Operating Budget** pays for the day-to-day expenses such as snow removal, recreation programs, fire & police services and daily maintenance of public facilities.



Building the Annual Budget

Operating Revenue: Where the Money Comes From



■ \$24,559,208	35.0%	Municipal Property Taxes
■ \$17,146,210	24.8%	PRA Agreement
■ \$8,055,440	11.6%	Water Utility Revenues
■ \$7,140,016	10.3%	Sewer Utility Revenues
■ \$4,031,236	5.8%	User Fees & Charges
■ \$2,525,262	3.6%	Grant in lieu & Other Taxes
■ \$2,844,626	4.1%	Other Government Transfers
■ \$1,466,111	2.1%	Other Revenues
■ \$1,424,021	2.1%	Interest Revenue

Building the Annual Budget

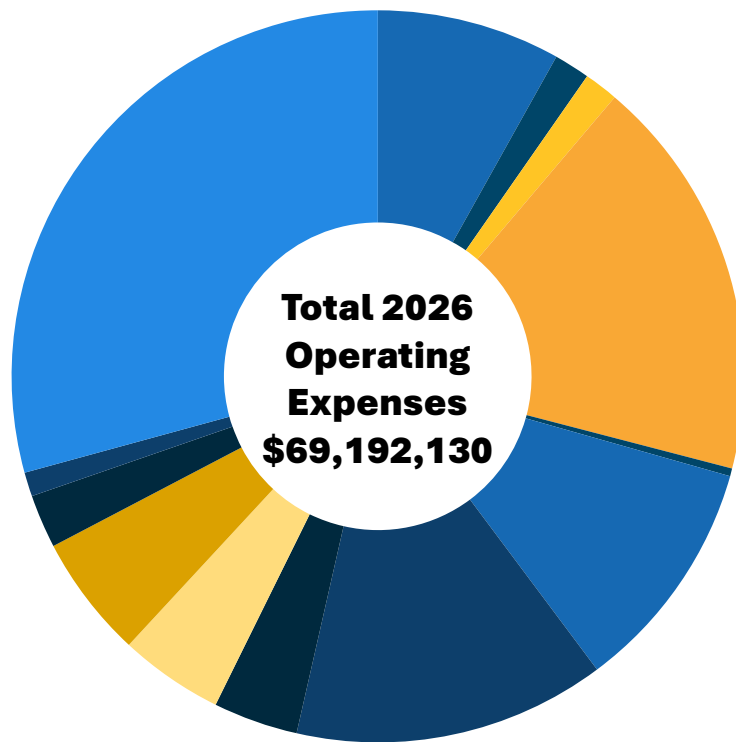
Municipal Fees & Charges



Department	2026
Environmental Waste Services	1,376,243
Community Services	1,288,305
Air Transportation	366,112
Police	235,484
Business Licenses	270,000
Building Inspection	108,820
Cemetery Fees	97,419
SPCA Dog Licensing	28,163
BC Transit	95,689
Fire Department	35,000
Tourism	130,000
Total	\$4,031,236

Building the Annual Budget

Operating Expenses: Where the Money Goes



\$5,614,788	8.1%	General Administrative
\$1,092,175	1.6%	Development Services
\$1,043,307	1.5%	Garbage & Recycling
\$12,351,906	17.9%	Protective Services
\$241,872	0.3%	Public Health & Welfare
\$7,182,042	10.4%	Transportation Services
\$9,537,577	13.8%	Community Services
\$2,587,633	3.7%	Ovintiv Events Centre
\$3,177,542	4.6%	Debt Services (Interest & Principal)
\$3,764,410	5.4%	Water Utility Expenditures
\$1,636,193	2.4%	Sewer Utility Expenditures
\$735,000	1.1%	Transfer to Equipment Pool
\$20,227,685	29.2%	Transfer to Capital & Operating Reserves

Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Administration



	Expenses
Legislative	426,226
Administration	1,227,121
Human Resources	516,571
Finance & Payroll	1,290,102
Information Technology	887,195
Communication	436,900
Other General	730,673
Election	100,000
Total Administration	\$5,614,788

Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Development Services

	Expenses	Revenue	Subsidy
Planning & Development Services	317,349		317,349
Economic Development	237,844	50,000	187,844
Tourism	536,982	130,000	406,982
Total Development Services	\$1,092,175	\$180,000	\$912,175



Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Protective Services



	Expenses	Revenue	Subsidy
Police	6,379,959	235,484	6,144,475
Fire Department	4,293,647	456,772	3,836,875
Emergency Operations	464,576		
Safety	360,957		360,957
Bylaw Enforcement	394,290		394,290
Animal Control	317,614	28,163	289,451
Building Inspection	140,863	108,820	32,043
Total Protective Services	\$12,351,906	\$829,239	\$11,058,091

Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Transportation

The “Roads and Streets” line below encompasses snowplowing and removal, sanding and gravel, sidewalk repair, drainage and steaming, street lighting, and line painting.

	Expenses	Revenue	Subsidy
Engineering	1,005,155		1,005,155
Roads & Streets	3,798,089		3,798,089
BC Transit & Step Up N Ride	710,134	95,689	614,445
Air Transportation	1,668,664	366,112	1,302,552
Total Transportation	\$7,182,042	\$461,801	\$6,720,241



Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Community Services

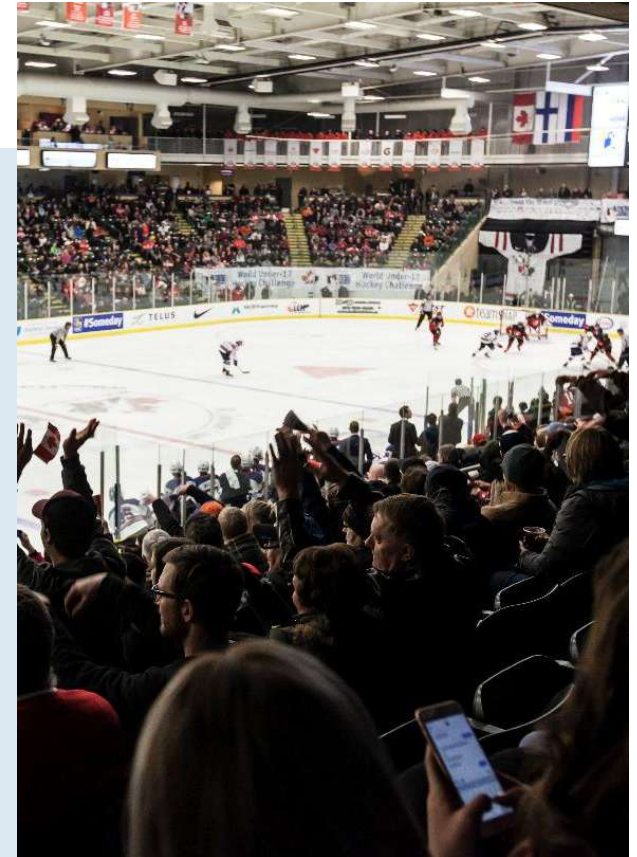


	Expenses	Revenue	Subsidy
Kenn Borek Aquatic Centre	2,076,738	626,524	1,450,214
Culture & Recreation Administration	1,506,274		1,506,274
Parks & Playgrounds	1,365,928	25,500	1,340,428
Recreation Programs	658,556	51,737	606,819
Memorial Arena	1,048,957	320,077	728,880
Kin Sports Floor	647,922	63,000	584,922
Public Library	617,313		617,313
Community Services Amenities	486,017		486,017
CK Art Centre Building	294,700		294,700
Exhibition Grounds	173,751		173,751
Lakota Centre	146,590		146,590
Community Grants / Fee for Service	234,500		234,500
Climbing Wall	111,979	17,051	94,928
Multiplex	168,352		168,352
Total Community Services	\$9,537,577	\$1,103,889	\$8,433,688

Building the Annual Budget

Operating Budget: Ovintiv Events Centre

	Expenses	Revenue	Subsidy
Operational Subsidy	1,850,000		1,850,000
Security	1,500		1,500
Building Insurance	236,133		236,133
Ice Rental	500,000	179,416	320,584
Total Ovintiv Events Centre	\$2,587,633	\$179,416	\$2,408,217



Building the Annual Budget

Sub-Regional Recreation Funding



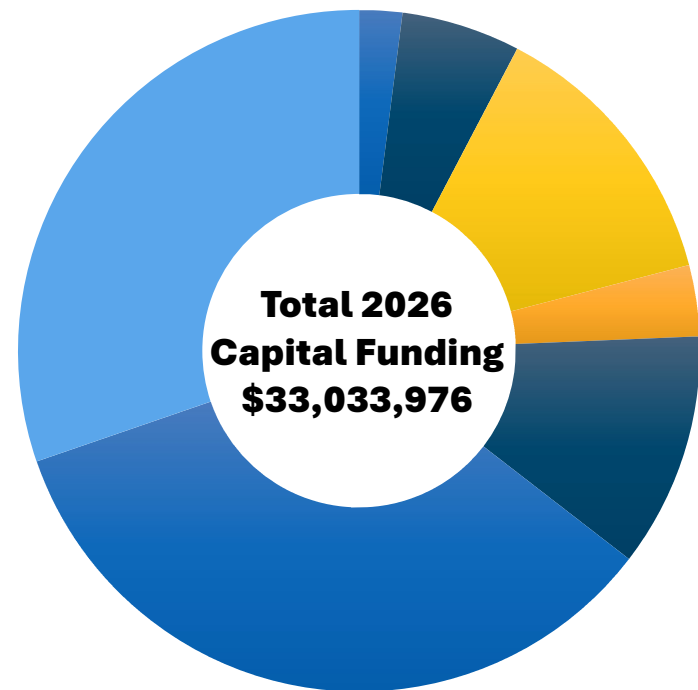
The City of Dawson Creek currently receives \$1 million per year from the South Peace Sub-Regional Recreation and Cultural Services Function Bylaw No. 2453, through the Peace River Regional District's taxation of its constituents. This is to offset the costs of cultural and recreation facilities within Dawson Creek that rural residents use.

The City is actively advocating for an increase in this amount, attempting to align the rural usage rate with the amount received, so that Dawson Creek residents don't bear an unfair share of these costs.

Building the Annual Budget

Capital Budget: Where the Money Comes From

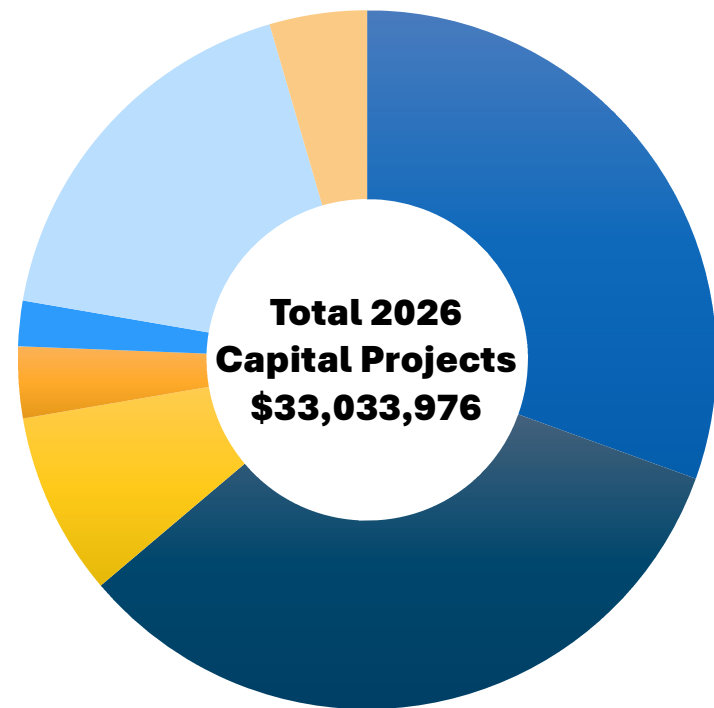
■ \$676,450	2.0%	Equipment Pool Reserve
■ \$1,857,898	5.6%	Government Grants
■ \$4,386,988	13.3%	Sewer Infrastructure
■ \$1,116,958	3.4%	Water Infrastructure
■ \$3,675,000	11.1%	General Capital Reserve
■ \$11,320,604	34.3%	Carryover Capital Reserve
■ \$10,000,078	30.3%	Peace River Agreement



Building the Annual Budget

Capital Budget: Where the Money Goes

■ \$10,084,929	30.5%	Paving & Sidewalks
■ \$10,997,935	33.3%	Facilities
■ \$2,802,624	8.5%	Water
■ \$1,093,283	3.3%	Drainage
■ \$694,177	2.1%	Airport
■ \$5,871,648	17.8%	Sewer
■ \$1,489,380	4.5%	Equipment Pool

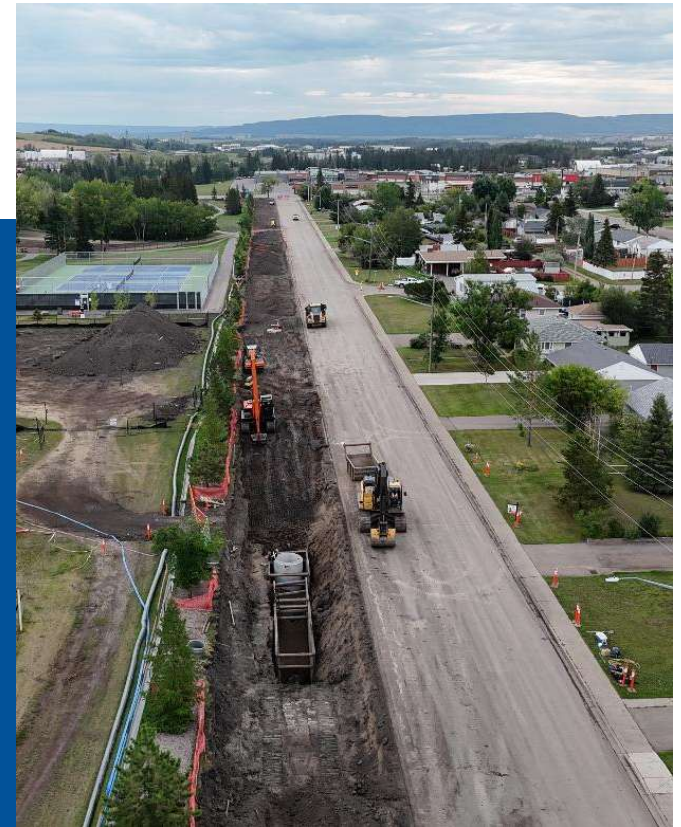


Building the Annual Budget

Key Capital Projects

There are nearly 50 projects on the 2026 Capital Projects list, including:

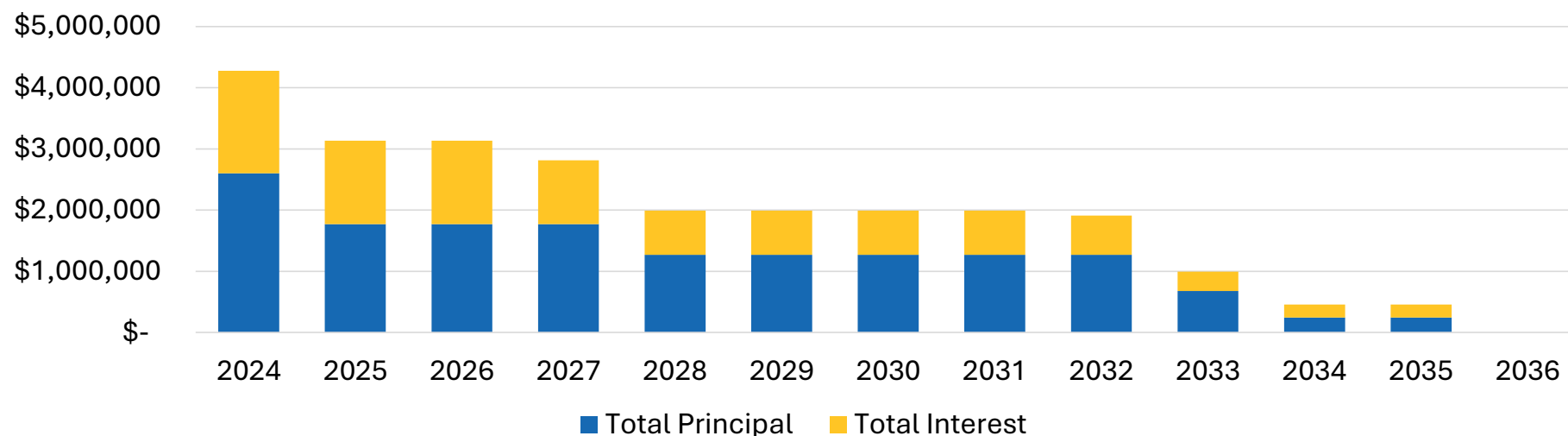
- 94 Avenue - 8 Street to 11 Street - Drainage, Paving, Sewer & Water
- Arenas Parking Lot Reconstruction
- Canalta Subdivision Phase 1 - Paving & Drainage
- Willowbrook Subdivision - Lining
- City Gateway Signage - Planning
- Curling Rink Canopy & Facility Upgrades
- Playground - Elwood Park (Royal Purple Playground)
- Playground - Hillcrest Park
- Vibrant Downtown - Street Lighting & Beautification Program - Phase 2



Building the Annual Budget

Debt Servicing

The municipal portion of property taxes also supports the City's debt servicing requirements for major capital investments, such as infrastructure, roads, and facility improvements. The chart below shows the principal and interest payments over the next 10 years, including debt funded through utility charges for water and sewer upgrades.

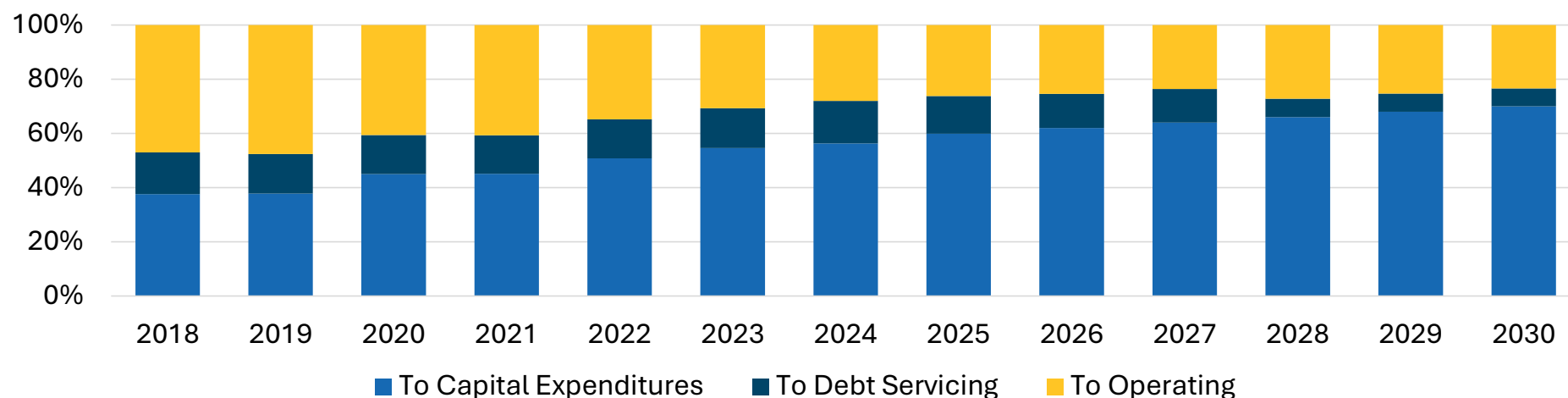


Building the Annual Budget

Peace River Agreement (PRA) Funding

The PRA funding remains the most significant government transfer received by the City of Dawson Creek. The allocation depends on population growth in each municipality and “inboundary” assessment increases for Classes 2, 4 and 5. In 2026, 62% of PRA funding will go towards the Capital Budget, with the goal of eventually moving 70% of the funding to Capital by 2030.

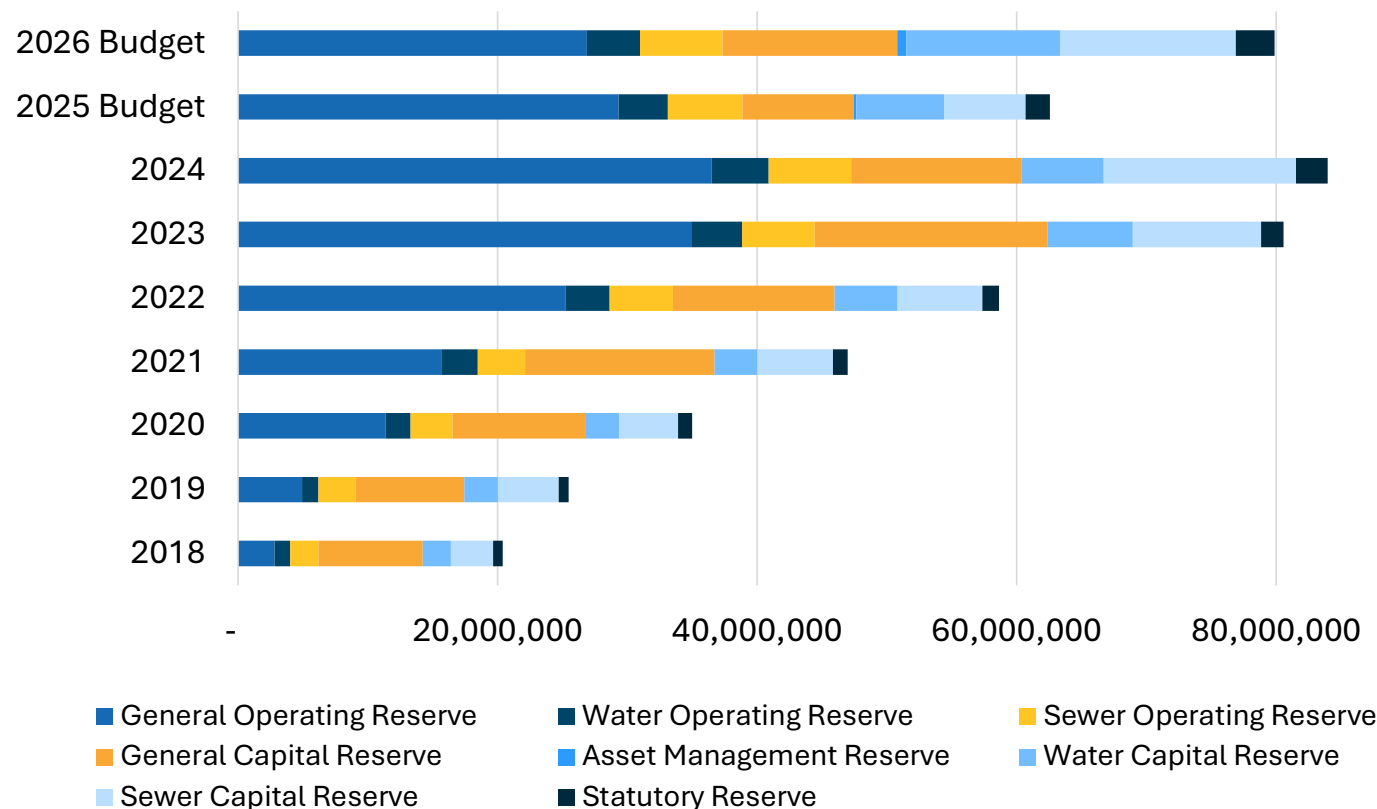
Percentage to Operations, Debt & Capital



Building the Annual Budget

Reserve Funds

Reserves are essential for the City to sustain operations during the initial six months of the year, before property tax collection, and capital reserves are necessary for the replacement of aging infrastructure.



*General Capital Reserve includes Flood Mitigation Reserve and Fire Department Reserve

Property Tax Calculation

Tax Rate vs. Tax Bill

**Assessed
Value**



**Property
Tax Rate**



**Property
Tax
Bill**

BC Assessment evaluates the value of your home or business based on the current market value and any improvements.

Council determines the tax rate each year for the 7 different property classes, this must be done by May 15th each year.

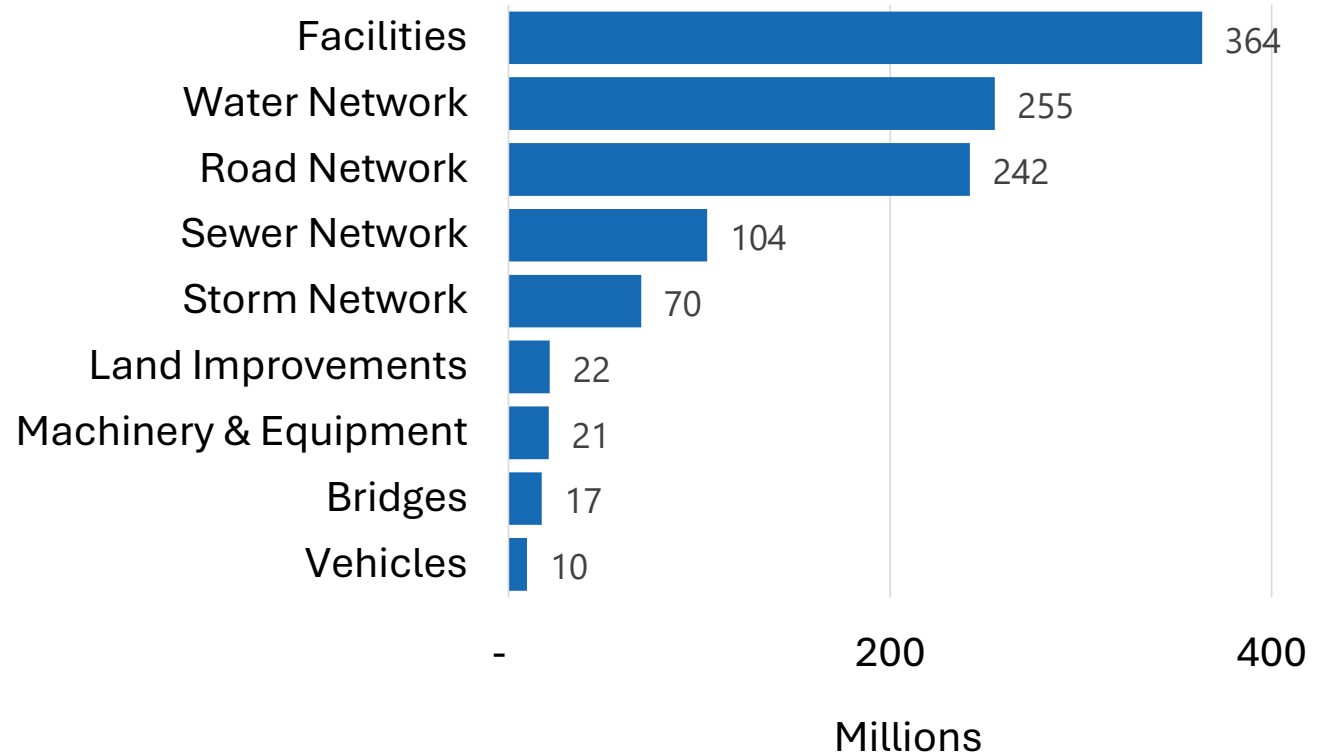
Your property tax bill is the **ASSESSED** value times the tax **RATE**.

Property Tax Calculation



Asset Management Plan

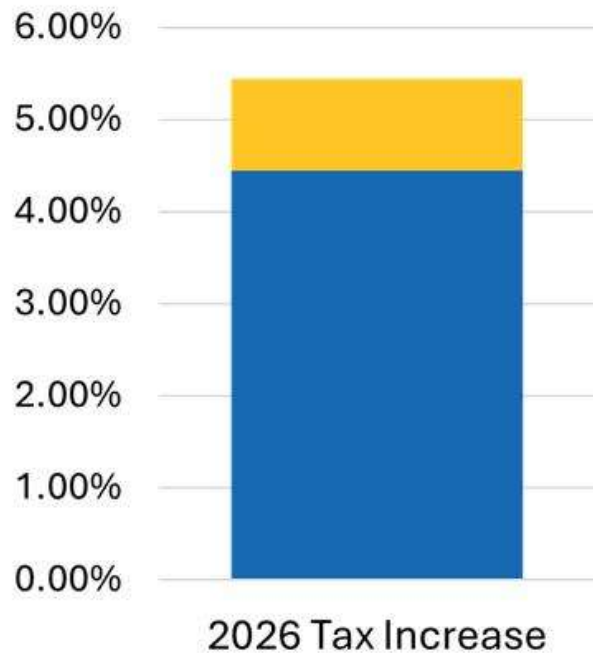
The completed Asset Management Plan (2025) determined that the **total replacement cost of the City's assets is \$1.1 Billion**. This includes buildings, roads, bridges, vehicles, machinery and utility infrastructure for the water, sewer and storm system.



Property Tax Calculation



Additional 1% Tax Increase



Eventually, assets need to be replaced. To stay current with those needs:

- \$21.7 Million is required each year within the general capital budget.
- Funding in the 2026 general capital is \$11.4 Million
- To help close the infrastructure funding deficit, Council approved an additional 1% tax increase beyond the planned 4.45% tax increase.
- The additional \$462,103 in municipal property tax revenue is allocated directly to capital reserves to save for the future replacement of the City's assets.

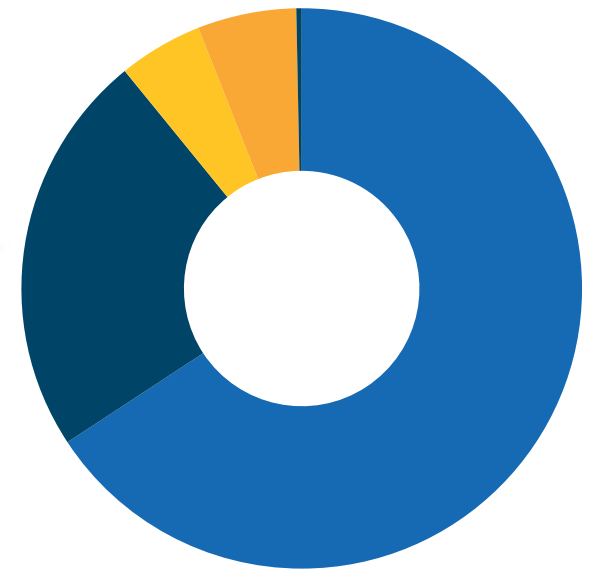
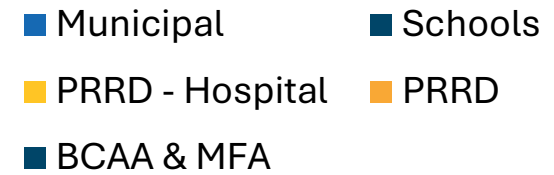
Property Tax Calculation

Municipal Tax Percentage

The City of Dawson Creek also collects taxes on behalf of other public authorities, including the Peace River Regional District and the provincial portion for School Tax.

For Class 1 - Residential properties, municipal taxes account for 66% of the total tax bill – shown in light blue on the graph.

For Class 6 - Commercial properties, municipal taxes represent 77% of the total. This is because commercial properties pay a proportionally lower share of provincial school taxes than residential properties.



Property Tax Calculation

Mill Rates

Classes	2025 Municipal Mill Rates*	2026 Municipal Mill Rates*	%Increase
1 - Residential	7.2542	7.6496	5.45%
2 - Utilities	54.7083	57.6899	5.45%
4 - Major Industry	37.3313	39.3659	5.45%
5 - Light Industry	22.1093	23.3143	5.45%
6 - Commercial	21.8833	23.0759	5.45%
8 - Rec/Non Profit	8.2135	8.6611	5.45%
9 - Farm	21.8385	23.0287	5.45%



The Mill Rate represents the amount of tax payable per thousand dollars of assessed property value.

*Inclusive of Paving Levy and AMP

Property Tax Calculation

Dawson Creek Properties

1 - Residential Average House	2025 Municipal Tax Bill	2026 Municipal Tax Bill	Annual Difference	Per Month Bill
285,482	2,071	2,184	113	182

6 - Commercial	2025 Municipal Tax Bill	2026 Municipal Tax Bill	Annual Difference	Per Month Bill
1 - \$250,000	5,471	5,769	298	481
2 - \$1,000,000	21,883	23,076	1,193	1,923
3 - \$3,000,000	65,650	69,228	3,578	5,769
4 - \$7,000,000	153,183	161,531	8,348	13,461

*Inclusive of Paving Levy and AMP

Property Tax Calculation

Contribution Breakdown

The table below shows the monthly contribution levels to each function based on the average house value and varying assessment levels within Class 6.

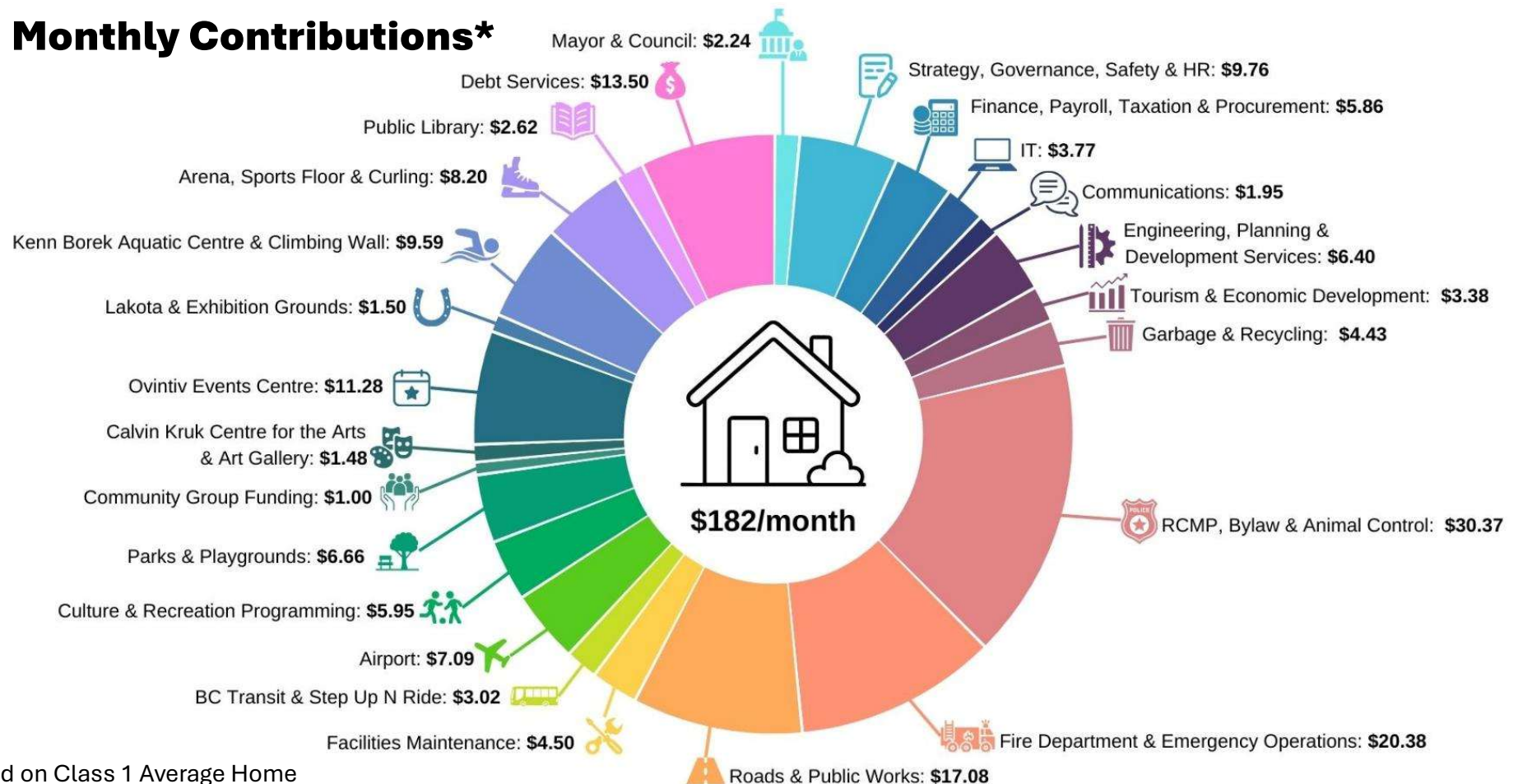
1 - Residential Average House	Municipal	PRRD*	School*	BCAA & MFA*	Total
285,482	182	30	66	1	278

6 - Commercial	Municipal	PRRD*	School*	BCAA & MFA*	Total
1 - \$250,000	481	63	74	2	621
2 - \$1,000,000	1,923	254	297	8	2,482
3 - \$3,000,000	5,769	762	890	25	7,446
4 - \$7,000,000	13,461	1,778	2,077	59	17,375

*Based on 2025 rates

Property Tax Calculation

Monthly Contributions*



*Based on Class 1 Average Home

Questions?

Learn More and Stay Engaged

City of Dawson Creek Website

- dawsoncreek.ca/budget
- dawsoncreek.ca/city-projects
- dawsoncreek.ca/council

Upcoming Budget Meetings

- March 9 – Draft 3 2026 Budget
- April 13 – 5-Year Financial Plan Bylaw

